

Bodies sucked from fuselage after explosion over Greece

Three die as mid-air blast rocks TWA jet

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Three passengers on a TWA Boeing 727 airliner, one a child, were killed over Greece yesterday when a mid-air explosion ripped a large hole in the fuselage and caused their bodies to be sucked out. Another child passenger was reported missing.

The bodies were found on the ground. Three other passengers were admitted to hospital but their injuries were said not to be serious.

The airliner, carrying 114 passengers and a crew of seven, was on a regular flight from Rome to Cairo via Athens. Thirty minutes before landing time, the pilot alerted Athens control tower that there had been an explosion while the 727 was flying at 11,000 ft above the city of Athens, 87 miles south-west of here.

The bodies of a man identified as Alberto Sino, a Colombian, a woman and a child, both unidentified, were discovered near Argos airport after a shepherd told the police he had seen objects falling from the plane. A search for the possible fourth victim began.

Mr Dennis Taylor, the TWA pilot, managed to land at Athens airport at 12.35 GMT. Seven passengers were taken to hospital but only three were detained for treatment. One is an American, Mrs Myrtle Simpson from Los Angeles. The other two are a Saudi couple who said they had been sitting next to the Colombian passenger who was killed.

A Greek Foreign Ministry spokesman said the blast was believed to have been caused by an explosive device "concealed in the hand luggage of a passenger". The spokesman said "passengers testified that their hand luggage was given only a cursory inspection be-

fore they boarded the plane at Rome".

In Rome it was said that only the luggage of the 10 passengers who had boarded the flight there was checked.

Earlier it had been stated that the explosion had occurred between the cargo compartment and the passenger area. It caused a hole 6 ft by 3 ft wide on the fuselage starboard.

Airline officials said that the plane would have disintegrated if the explosion had occurred while it was flying at its usual cruising altitude of 22,000 ft.

The airliner, TWA flight 847, was on the same route as the plane of the same company which was hijacked by Shia gunmen in June last year after taking off from Athens for Rome. It was then diverted to Algiers and one passenger, a US Navy diver, was killed by the hijackers.

One woman passenger escaped the blast because she left her seat only minutes earlier to go to the lavatory. Mrs Florentia Haniotakis, a Greek-American from Ohio travelling with her two small children, told Reuters she had been sitting next to the spot where the explosion happened.

She praised the seven-member crew and said they had comforted passengers during the emergency landing. "Everyone grabbed their oxygen masks and the crew assured us we would be all right," she said.

Mr Paul Sutherland, an American executive with the Bank of America in Greece, said he heard a big noise and saw the aircraft cabin fill with haze.

Another passenger, Mrs Cora Saitakis, a Japanese-American, said: "No one

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The hole ripped in the TWA airliner's fuselage by the explosion and through which the passengers were sucked

Praise for pilot who flew on

By Michael Bailey
Transport Editor

Flying and landing a Boeing 727 with a 10 foot hole in its side was "a very good piece of airmanship" by the TWA pilot, according to Captain Mike Clarke, president of the British Airline Pilots' Association.

"The sadness of the loss of life seems to have been contained in the initial seconds, and to have concluded the trip without any further complications suggests a very good piece of piloting", Capt Clarke said last night.

The immediate problem after the explosion would be decompression and lack of oxygen. Flight crew would use oxygen and go down to a height where passengers could breathe normally.

A gaping hole in the side of the fuselage would interfere with airflow and the aircraft's handling qualities in an unpredictable way. But a greater hazard would be loss of hydraulic systems controlling flaps, slats and rudder, which would require emergency action by flight crew.

Normally there are three separate systems and loss of one or two (clearly all three were not lost) would involve delay in activating controls. It was apparently lucky that the explosive device was close to the side of the aircraft, which meant that much of the blast would go outwards.

City shrugs off gloom as oil climbs past \$10

By David Smith and Teresa Poole

Share prices and the pound moved confidently upwards yesterday, shrugging off concern about the collapse in oil prices.

The price of oil moved back above \$10 a barrel, but the outlook remains uncertain. Share prices soared to record levels, the Financial Times 30-share index closing 17.2 points up at 1419.4. The wider FTSE 100-share index moved above the 1700 level, showing a gain of 18.9 points on the day at 1702.9.

The price of North Sea oil rallied on news that the American Vice-President, Mr George Bush, planned to discuss the stabilization of the oil market when he arrives in Saudi Arabia on Saturday on the first leg of a four-nation visit to the Gulf.

He said: "I think it is essential that we talk about stability and that we not just have a continued free fall like a parachute jumping out without a parachute."

But Mr Bush said he would not tell the Saudis to cut production. Gains of up to \$1.50 a barrel were reported for Brent, the most widely traded North Sea crude, but dealers said the market was very thin and nervous. As oil prices rebounded, taking their lead from late

trading in New York, the International Petroleum Exchange in London was forced for the first time to suspend dealings for a second successive day.

The pound rose by half a cent to \$1.4735 against a generally firm dollar, and also posted good gains against other currencies, including a six pence rise to DM3.4877 against the German mark. The sterling index rose 0.7 points to 76.5.

Despite the weakness of oil prices in recent weeks, the Bank of England stocked up Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves last month.

The underlying rise in reserves of \$278 million (£189 million), was the biggest monthly increase since January 1981. The actual rise was a much larger \$2.94 billion, mainly because of the annual revaluation of reserves.

As a result, Britain's reserves stood at \$18,750 million (£12,686 million) at the end of last month, their highest level since March 1982. The renewed rise in share prices reflects the belief that the benefits of lower oil prices more than outweigh any worries about the effects on the US banking system.

International bodies, including the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, believe that the fall in oil prices will bring about stronger world growth without inflation.

The International Monetary Fund, in its World Economic Outlook, to be published next week, expects 3 per cent world growth this year. Its earlier forecast was for a 2.8 per cent expansion.

For Britain, the London Business School expects the oil price fall to be reflected in a lower rate of inflation next year, 2.5 per cent, than growth in output, forecast at 3.2 per cent.

Pressure for pact, page 17

Petrol set for further price fall

By Teresa Poole

Petrol prices are set to decline further after the recent slide in the oil price to \$10 a barrel.

Oil companies yesterday reported a continuing downward trend, with one industry official describing the scene as a "controlled plummet".

The average price of a gallon of four-star is now 175p, but regional variations across the country mean a wide spread from below 160p to more than 180p. In some areas competition on the forecourts has already eroded the 7.5p duty increase imposed in last month's budget.

A spokesman for Esso said: "The trend in the past few days has been downwards. If the spot market price of \$10 a barrel works its way through the system and the exchange rate remains stable, then we would expect to see competition increasing and petrol prices coming down."

The price could only drop according to the Mobil, which this week lowered its reference price to match the 179.6p maximum set by Esso, BP, and Shell.

The fall in the crude oil price is likely to bring renewed government pressure on the oil companies to pass on the benefits of cheaper oil to consumers. After the budget, both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor criticized the oil industry for passing on the full duty increase to the motorist.

The price of crude accounts for about 36p of the cost of a gallon of four-star, but any weakness in sterling can wipe out the impact of cheaper crude because oil is priced in dollars.

Sterling has held its ground against the dollar in spite of the sharp decline of oil prices over the past four months which means that cheaper oil is now working its way through the refinery system.

Continued on page 2, col 8

Pretoria lifts ban on Mrs Mandela

From Michael Hornsby
Soweto

The wife of Nelson Mandela, the jailed leader of the outlawed African National Congress, yesterday returned to her home in Soweto after the government lifted all restrictions on her movements for the first time in 10 years.

A defiant Mrs Winnie Mandela told a crowd of newsmen, neighbours and well-wishers who crammed into her garden: "I am grateful to no one. It is my right to be at home, and it is not any particular step towards a change in the government's policy."

Mrs Mandela said it was quite obvious to her now that the government had never intended to release her husband from jail. It had merely given that impression "to hoodwink the world into believing that (it) was moving towards some kind of a reformist programme."

Mr Ismail Ayob, Mrs Mandela's lawyer, said he was told by the state attorney representing Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order, that the government was no longer contesting Mrs Mandela's appeal against her "banning" order, which, among other things, prohibited her from entering Soweto.

"The effects of that is that she is unbanned but she remains silenced because of the ban on all meetings in the country and because she is still a 'listed' person," Mr Ayob told *The Times*.

Mrs Mandela has been subject to banning orders of one kind or another almost continuously since 1962. In 1974 she was jailed for six months. In May 1977, Mrs Mandela was banished to a black township near Brandfort, a small rural town in the Orange Free State. Last December, however, the government cancelled the banishment and relaxed some of the other restrictions on her.

Under the modified ban, she was free to live in any black area outside the Johannesburg and Roodepoort magisterial districts, which include Soweto. She was also permitted to attend social but not political gatherings.

The state's decision to abandon its case against Mrs Mandela appears to be a direct result of a ruling last month by the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein which, in effect, required the Minister of Law and Order to give fuller reasons for imposing banning orders.

Meanwhile, Bishop Desmond Tutu yesterday called on the international community to help us establish a new South Africa: non-racial, democratic, participatory and just."

School violence, page 2

Teachers vote to defy new exam

The education service was thrown into further chaos yesterday when the biggest teachers' union voted to continue to teach O level and CSE courses this autumn in defiance of the Government's plans to introduce a new examination for pupils aged 16.

The decision by delegates of the National Union of Teachers at their annual conference in Blackpool was taken in secret session and in opposition to the NUT leadership which argued that the move would alienate parents at a time when the unions needed them. It might also place the union's members in breach of contract.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, responded swiftly to the decision. He said the new GCSE examination would still go ahead as planned in the interests of raising standards.

Sir Keith said: "Teachers have made much of their wish to win more sympathy from parents. Pupils who start their fourth year of education this autumn have the right to be taught for the new exam. Teaching them for an exam which does not exist in the summer of 1988 will damage them during a vital period in their school careers."

The rebellion by NUT delegates comes after the decision by the second biggest teachers' union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, to continue to boycott the development work for the new examination. But the NAS/UNT is committed only to boycotting the preparation phase and not the examination's introduction.

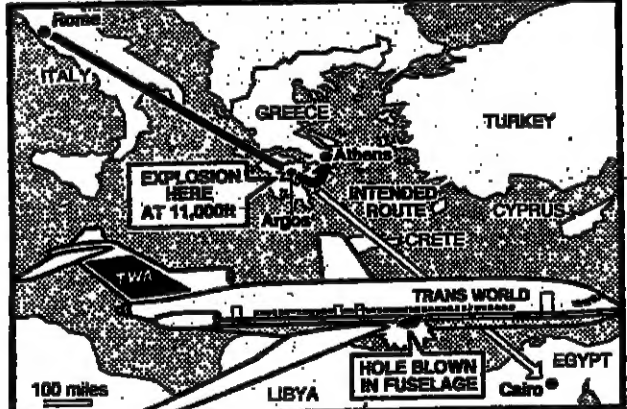
The NUT's motion pledges the union not only to continuing the boycott of preparation and training, but also to continue teaching existing syllabuses until it is satisfied that the new examination is "adequately planned and funded".

In a brief public session in Blackpool, Mrs June Fisher, an NUT executive member, was booed when she commented that Sir Keith would not defer the September introduction of the GCSE.

She said: "There are teachers genuinely concerned for the children who are going to be facing the new syllabuses in the coming September term. Those colleagues do not want to see their children disadvantaged."

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said: "It demonstrates the strength of feeling of many of our members in the schools."

The NUT's leaders are to seek an urgent meeting with Sir Keith to urge a one year postponement and to ask for the extra £100 million which they say is needed for the introduction of the new examination.



Tomorrow

A child in danger



When does a parent's carelessness become neglect?

Law Society finals

Full winter examination results

Portfolio

The £4,000 prize in yesterday's Times Portfolio competition, double the usual amount because there was no winner the previous day, was shared by two readers, Mr P O Holloway of Chandler's Ford, Hants, and Mr Derek Long, of Brighton, Sussex. Portfolio list page 22; how to play, information service, page 16.

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Loyalists attack homes of police

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The homes of police and Roman Catholic houses and chapels were attacked by hard-line "loyalists" yesterday. In an ominous development of the protests against the Anglo-Irish agreement.

The attacks on police homes is part of an insidious campaign to destroy the morale of a force which unionists allege is being used politically to enforce the agreement.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary said that in the last month 43 police officers had been intimidated and 11 officers and their families had been forced to move home because of intimidation.

The attacks were discussed at a meeting between the police federation, which represents rank and file officers, and Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC. Federation representatives expressed the concern of officers that they were being used to

implement politically-based decisions.

Latter Sir John met the Northern Ireland Police Authority to give them a detailed account of events at the weekend.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party (OUP), yesterday demanded an immediate end to "outrageous attacks on policemen and their families, together with indiscriminate destruction of property". He gave a warning that Ulster would be reduced to "anarchy and ruin" if loyalists allowed themselves to be used as riot fodder.

Events in Portadown, during which 148 plastic bullets were fired at loyalist rioters, have infuriated many Protestants. There have been loud protests at the alleged indiscriminate use of plastic bullets and in their fury loyalists have

Continued on page 2, col 6

24 Hours
Car Wash
Shop

1579
1599

Motorists begin to benefit from oil price plunge

Pressure for pact, page 17

BL loss soars by 50% to £110m

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL yesterday announced pretax losses for 1985 of £110.3 million, a 50 per cent increase on 1984 losses. But Land Rover, the privatization candidate, saw its profits leap from £2 million to £10 million.

BL's preliminary results show that the group's turnover

was £3,415 million, up from 1984's £2,955 million, with exports totalling £764 million. BL's overall loss, after tax, interest and extraordinary items, was £138 million. The 1984 profit of £80.6 million was distorted by the proceeds from the sale of Jaguar.

The state-controlled group's

operating loss of £39.5 million for 1985 was a "significant reduction" from the 1984 loss of £66.5 million, the directors said.

Land Rover was helped last year by good results from Freight Rover.

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Dutch round off small war in Scillies

By Patricia Clough

Mr Jonkheer Rein Huydecoper, the Dutch Ambassador in London, will set out for the Isles of Scilly shortly to declare peace after a war which has been raging unnoted for 335 years.

The hostilities which he will put an end began in 1651 when the Dutch, angry at the way the Scilly pirates were plundering the ships on their East India route, sent 12 men-of-war under Admiral Tromp to quell the pirates and retrieve their money.

Tromp ordered the islanders, who were the last Royalists holding out at the end of the Civil War, to surrender.

They refused, whereupon he declared war.

Before he could go any further, he called the English Parliamentary fleet under Admiral Blake, who said that he could sort out the islanders without Dutch help.

So it was that Tromp de-

parted without firing a shot.

Peace was settled later between England and the Netherlands, but everyone forgot about the Scillies until the islands' council noticed that their own particular war had never formally ended.

The Dutch Foreign Ministry, searching through dusty documents, found that the islanders were right. It is despatching the Ambassador to the islands some time in the next few weeks, with a docu-

ment stating that the war is over.

Mr Ray Duncan, chairman of the islands council, said: "The Ambassador will be explaining to the council that although the war between Holland and Britain ended after the signing of a peace treaty, the position regarding the Scillies is unclear."

"The Dutch authorities are having a document prepared at the moment which will bring hostilities to an end."

Kidnap fears grow for two Britons

Fears were growing yesterday that two British teachers missing in Beirut may have been kidnapped. The British Embassy said its efforts to locate them had produced no clues.

Mr Leigh Douglas, aged 34, a teacher at the American University of Beirut, and Mr Philip Padfield, aged 40, director of the city's International Language Centre, were last seen on Friday night leaving a public house.

Fears for Britons, page 5

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County Hall 'to go to top bidder' in massive deal

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The sale of County Hall, until last Tuesday the headquarters of the Greater London Council, will be the biggest single property deal ever in Britain, the new owner of the building said yesterday.

Sir Godfrey (Tag) Taylor, chairman of the London Residuary Body, which now owns County Hall, said: "It is a unique site worldwide."

Although demolition "must be a possibility", the famous frontage that faces the Houses of Parliament across Westminster Bridge was protected by listing as a historic building.

Sir Godfrey said the aim was to secure a sale of the building as one unit, with its 1,200 rooms, 1.2 million square feet of usable space and five miles of mainly panelled corridors. There is also the lofty council chamber with its throne-like chairman's seat.

County Hall is the largest and most expensive of the 8,000 properties all over the capital which Sir Godfrey's quango has inherited from the GLC. Many GLC buildings have been transferred to borough councils, but the Residuary Body is expected to sell about 4,000, including many freeholds.

The buildings include office blocks and shops, and tracts of land sometimes bought years ago to allow widening of roads that were never widened. Some of the properties were inherited from Middlesex County Council when the GLC was created 22 years ago.

The freeholds include the award-winning shopping mall in old Covent Garden and the Shell centre near County Hall. The residuary quango has become a substantial ratepayer and will soon face a bill for well over £3 million from the Labour-led Lambeth Borough Council for rates on County Hall and the former GLC office blocks between it and York Road.

Lambeth, as a council that

has inherited planning powers from the GLC, will also have a say in deciding the fate of County Hall next year.

The building cannot be sold until a new headquarters has been found for the Inner London Education Authority, which still occupies it.

Arts play on without GLC

The arts will not suffer financially because of the abolition of the GLC and metropolitan councils, the Arts Council claimed yesterday (David Hewson writes). Extra funds from the council, local authorities and regional arts associations will meet the overall sum given to the arts by the abolished bodies Sir William Rees-Mogg, Arts Council chairman, said.

But the effects will vary, with some parts of the North better off than before and others, notably Merseyside, probably worse off. In London the council has joined forces with the City of Westminster to secure £4.7 million to replace GLC grants for the National Theatre, the English National Opera, the London Festival Ballet and London Orchestras.

The ENO, the National Theatre and the LFB will also receive 4 per cent increases in their general Arts Council grants. Mr Luke Rittner, the council's secretary general, said that the prospects for arts funding after abolition were now much less bleak than they appeared a few months ago.

The settlement, still under negotiation, should guarantee the future of companies which relied on the abolished bodies for their survival. According to the Arts Council these include the threatened Sadler's Wells and Almeida theatres.

The new South Bank board, which will run the South Bank arts complex in London, is to receive £8.75 million.



The postcard view from County Hall, former home of the Greater London Council, across the Thames to Westminster (Photograph: Bill Warhurst)

Legal moves start over GLC cash

By Our Environment Correspondent

The quango left to wind up the business of the Greater London Council has called for legal advice about the destination of the "absent millions" that were signed away by the council in its final hours.

Sir Godfrey Taylor, chairman of the London Residuary Body, said yesterday: "We are taking legal advice about the whole of the package. We would hope to have it by Monday."

At least £80 million is involved in the legal complications that have interrupted its disbursement to the London boroughs and voluntary organizations chosen by the GLC. There are two key legal points in dispute, and at least one is likely to be resolved when judgement on a GLC appeal is delivered by the Lords next week.

The first point is whether the GLC, which no longer exists, had the power to allocate money for spending as it wished after it had been abolished. The second is whether the council had the power to allocate money to only some of the 32 London boroughs instead of letting the residuary body pay it to all of them.

A total of £78 million was

paid with two cheques last week to Satman Developments, a company formed to continue GLC housing renovation work in the boroughs. All of the contracts for which the money is destined were settled by the GLC in its final hours, and the job of Satman is to hand it out to the organizations chosen by the council.

But Satman has agreed for legal reasons to pay nothing for a month to allow time for legal challenges to the GLC's decision not to pay money to every borough. The money paid to Satman includes about £37 million which the GLC tried to hand to the Inner London Education Authority until the payment was blocked in court. It also includes

£16 million on which a court challenge by Conservative-led London boroughs was withdrawn last month.

The fate of a further £25 million earmarked by the GLC to voluntary "umbrella" groups and not paid to Satman depends on the forthcoming Lords judgement. At least £14 million more has been frozen by an injunction given in the GLC's final hours to Conservative-controlled Westminster City Council.

In spite of the last-minute spending decisions of the GLC, London will escape the steep rate increases being imposed in many of the shire authorities. But the rate bargains do not apply in areas where county councils were abolished on Monday. The latest figures from the Rating and Valuation Association show an average increase in England and Wales of 13 per cent for the coming year compared with 8 per cent in 1985.

Inner London has scored a rate cut of 21.8 per cent, partly thanks to the impact of ratecapping. The average increase in the metropolitan districts, which used to be covered by the abolished Labour-led county councils, will be 16 per cent.



Mr Idris Pearce (left) and Sir Godfrey Taylor, who will decide the future of County Hall

COUNCIL	%
Calderdale	+37
Cumbria	+36
Cambs	+33
Sussex	+30
Rochdale	+30
Kirklees	+29
Bradford	+28
Oxon	+28
Avon	+28
Leics	+27
Somerset	+27
Wilt	+26
Glanushead	+25
S Glamorgan	+24
Rotherham	+24
Nthumbland	+23
Herts	+22
Lincoln	+22
Cornwall	+22
Sandwell	+20
Devon	+20
Dorset	+20
E Sussex	+20
Leicestershire	+20
Worcestershire	+20
Sheffield	+18
Southall	+17
Liverpool	+16
Birmingham	+15
Hampshire	+15
Dyfed	+15
Powys	+15
Surrey	+15
Aberdeen	+10
Glasgow	+5
Edinburgh	+5
Newcastle	+2
London Sutton	+2
Brent	0
Enfield	0
City	-1
Westminster	-1
Warwick	-2
Kingston	-3
Bromley	-6
Haringey	-10
Hackney	-11
Hammersmith	-15
Kensington & Chelsea	-25

Call for ban on violent students

From Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent, Scarborough

Children who commit serious offences at school, and who abuse or assault teachers, should be expelled and put in an educational establishment elsewhere, the conference of the second biggest teachers' union in Scarborough was told yesterday.

In an emotional debate on violence in schools, directed specifically at the Poundswick High School affair in Manchester, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers voted unanimously to condemn local authorities who insist that abusive and violent pupils should return to the same school.

There were two standing ovations for 18 NAS/UTW members from Manchester, who have been refusing to teach errant pupils for the past six months. As a result they have been sent home with no pay.

Mr Michael Iman, the union's president, announced afterwards that there would be a national rally in support of the Poundswick staff on May 4 in Manchester. There will also be a rolling programme of lightning strike action in Manchester's schools in the first half of next term.

The teachers' salaries are being met by the union at a cost of £2,500 a week.

Moving yesterday's motion, Mr John Hughes, of Bexley, said: "You can hardly expect that a teacher who has been so abused should have any of those pupils in school again."

Referring to a survey of pupil violence carried out by his union last week, Mr Hughes said that verbal abuse and physical attacks on teachers were on the increase.

A teacher from a boys' secondary school in Southampton in the survey said that during the past 14 years he had been assaulted seven times.

Miss Chris Elwood, the union representative at Poundswick, said her members would "stick to their guns" because the issue was so fundamental to standards in education.

A motion proposing that examinations should no longer be exempt from industrial action was postponed for further debate today. It was moved yesterday by Mr Ian Draper, from Northamptonshire, who said that 10 out of 13 NAS/UTW members had left the union at his school because of the recent Acas settlement.

Petrol set for further fall in pump price

Continued from page 1

leading to a steady fall in pump prices.

Oil companies yesterday described the immediate situation as very volatile and confused, and a spokesman for the 1,200 cut-price Jet garages said: "We are waiting to see what happens to the current situation while the level of stocks works its way through the system."

But across the industry expectations were for further price reductions.

A survey of petrol prices by the Automobile Association yesterday showed that Britain has some of the cheapest petrol in Europe, with only West Germany, Luxembourg, and Yugoslavia significantly lower.

Within the Britain, petrol costs varied from 159p in the West Country to 195p in the Highlands. The regional averages for four-star were 171p in the West Country, 173p in the North, 176p in the Midlands, 176.5p in the South-east, and 179.5p in Scotland.

Maxwell's papers in production

The dispute which stopped production of the *Sunday Mail* and *Daily Record*, Scotland's biggest selling daily newspaper, for three weeks, was settled yesterday.

The 1,000 workers who were dismissed at Mr Robert Maxwell's publishing plant at Anderson Quay, Glasgow, were back at work last night.

The deal reached between Mr Maxwell and leaders of Sogat '82, the NGA and the NUJ, was accepted by the workforce in Glasgow. Month-long talks are to be held on the future of the two newspapers. All workers who were dismissed will be reinstated and there is a guarantee of no compulsory redundancies. Other key points in the agreement were acceptance of a nine-day fortnight instead of a four-day working week, with no more than 25 per cent redundancy in any one department.

Raymond Farrell, aged 30, a painter and decorator of Gritton House, Bethnal Green, was fined £40 by Thames magistrates yesterday after he admitted obstructing the highway near the News International plant in Wapping, east London.

Tory plea for end to drink laws

Abolition of the licensing laws, allowing advertising on the BBC and scrapping the licence fee, were among promises called to be included in the next Conservative election manifesto by the Federation of Conservative Students yesterday.

The sale of the Post Office and privatization of coal, electricity and rail were also among the package of measures proposed in the federation's version of the Conservative Manifesto 1987, published on the opening day of the annual conference at Scarborough.

It calls for promises to bring inflation down to zero and income tax down to 20p; to reform the tax system with the purpose of introducing a single flat rate of income tax; to establish a personal retirement account into which tax-free funds can be paid towards private pensions; to raise VAT thresholds; to provide tax relief for private health care and to end the unequal tax treatment of women.

We the People (Federation of Conservative Students, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3HH.)

Aberdeen fears end of the North Sea boom

By Ronald Faux

Four drilling rigs lie idle in Aberdeen Bay marking the ominous calm that has fallen on the North Sea exploration programme. A drop in the price of crude oil has sent a detectable shudder through the oil capital of Europe.

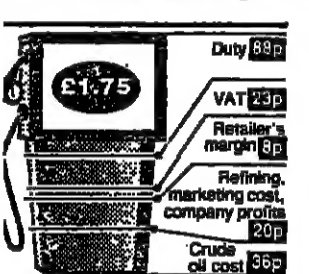
All the main oil companies have announced cuts in their drilling programmes amounting to many millions of dollars. Those are bound to work through the system and eventually reduce the demand for the services Aberdeen has become expert at providing.

The most optimistic feeling in the city is that oil prices will have picked up again before the end of the summer, so that the city might not feel any severe effects from lost trade or lower demand.

One Aberdeen trader said: "The impact is being felt by the oil industry, not by us at the moment."

North Sea oil reaches its peak production this year with 42 platforms off the east coast pumping oil ashore for a much lower return. Mr Jim Henderson, principal development officer with Grampian region, said that nearly all the platforms were producing oil at \$5 (about £3.30) a barrel or below.

The BP Forties field, the first in the North Sea, was producing for \$1.50 a barrel. "They will keep producing and as long as that happens a



strong service industry will be required," he said.

Although the future drilling programme had virtually collapsed - an event that could ultimately delay the development of marginal fields - 36 drilling rigs were still operating in the North Sea, three more than last year, he added.

"There have been minor cutbacks by the drilling companies offshore and the supply side that have cost about 500 jobs, but there are about 22,000 employed offshore and of those only 40 per cent live in the Grampian region."

"As the oil prices firm up at a lower level, I think the service companies might start making themselves leaner as the effect filters down to them. "It may be that fewer staff are replaced and operations rationalized, but it is hard to believe that the pressure for a higher oil price will not have an impact," he said.

Grampian calculated before the drop in the oil price that the oil companies were planning to invest £35 billion over the next 10 years in 34 North

The oil price fall

Sea fields, of which probably no more than 14 would have manned platforms.

Unless there was some government incentive to continue the programme, the fear was that many of those plans would be postponed. That would have an impact on the design, fabrication and light engineering services provided by the region.

The shift from large production platforms to subsea or floating systems has cast a shadow over the fabrication yards in the north of Scotland where competition is severe and where demand could be affected by the lower oil price. The specialists are having to

compete not only with one another but as the size of the structures diminishes, conventional shipbuilding yards throughout Britain are able to bid for work.

Local authority leaders in the north of Scotland said yesterday that they feared the cut in oil prices would mean less work for the fabrication yards in the Highlands, making a severe unemployment problem even worse.

In Aberdeen, however, Mr Henderson was optimistic about the long-term future. Aberdeen and Grampian region host 150 foreign companies, 120 of them Ameri-

can, on the United Kingdom register. Some have grown to be bigger than their American parents and one has moved its world headquarters to Aberdeen.

Although the high wages and inflationary effects of North Sea oil have kept other new industries out of the city, Aberdeen remains an important fishing port and retains a bedrock of sound traditional industries.

Unemployment is less than 8 per cent, industrial estates and new hotels have mushroomed on the city outskirts, and Aberdeen airport is one of the busiest in Europe.

Cheaper coal for power stations

By Gavin Bell

The sharp drop in oil prices has forced the coal board to cut the cost of its supplies to several power stations and to begin negotiating new general pricing agreements with the Central Electricity Generating Board.

However, the NCB said yesterday there was no evidence that its customers were switching from coal to cheaper oil and no immediate prospect of mounting stocks of unwanted coal.

The CEBG, by far the coal board's biggest customer, confirmed that it had not used its capacity to switch fuel supplies and there had been no

reduction in its purchases of coal. An NCB spokesman said the initial fall in oil prices in mid-February had resulted in local price adjustments, in agreement with the CEBG, affecting individual power stations.

At about the same time the two boards began discussions on general pricing arrangements and it was hoped an agreement could be worked out soon, he said.

"It is important to take account of the uncertainty in the oil market, but equally we should not be pushed or panicked into any imprudent action. The aim is to reach a

sensible agreement, taking the longer view, in the interests of both our industries and of the consumers," the spokesman said.

The last general price increase, which took effect last November, was less than the rate of inflation for the fifth consecutive year. The NCB could not assess how its income would be affected, but so far it was still on course for its target of reaching breakeven point by March 1988.

The CEBG buys about two-thirds of NCB production, which is expected to be about 90 million tonnes per annum during the next five years.

Sikhs battle for the temples

By Richard Dowden

Sikh extremism in Britain, which has dogged Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, during his present tour of India, is rooted in deep divisions over the issue of independence for their "home country", Khalistan. Its chief battleground is for the control of the Gurdwaras, the Sikh temples.

Although Sir Geoffrey has made several significant concessions to Indian government, he has virtually ruled out the possibility of a new extradition treaty with India to deal with militant Sikh separatists.

The divisions in the British Sikh community will re-emerge later this month in a High Court battle between moderates and extremists for control of one of the biggest temples in Britain.

No one knows the exact number of Sikhs in Britain. The Office of Population and Census Surveys gives an estimated figure of 175,000, while the Indian High Commission estimates 210,000. Sikhs put the figure at about 300,000.

Most are concentrated in west London around Ealing, especially Southall, and in the

Midlands in Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Derby, and Leicester.

The split within the community opened up after the attack on the temple of Amritsar in 1984 and the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi later that year when some Sikhs danced in the streets of Britain to celebrate her death.

There are about 2,000 temples serving the Sikh community in Britain but only 60 of those are large enough to be politically significant. Thirty-two of those are said to be in the hands of the "extremists", that is militantly supporting an independent Khalistan.

Since the Sikh community shares a common meal at the Gurdwaras after the Sunday religious service, to symbolize unity, any faction which controls the temple and its common fund has considerable influence in the community.

In two weeks the High Court in London is to hear a case between the moderates and extremists over the Guru Singh Sabha temple in Havlock Road, Southall, one of the biggest in Britain, at

present controlled by the extremists.

Dr Jagjit Singh Chauhan, the most prominent of the Khalistan independence supporters in Britain, said yesterday that some of the previous Gurdwaras management committee tried to suppress the opinion of the majority and were voted out.

However, Mr P S Khabra, of the Indian Workers' Association, said that there have never been any elections for management committees of the Gurdwaras in recent years but that many of them have been physically taken over by what he described as thuggish elements of the All India Sikh Students Federation.

There have been serious clashes in Britain between the two groups and the many factions within them. Three moderate leaders have been shot, one killed, and the Indian government has been angered by the lack of action by the British Government against the extremists.

But the British Government argues that it will not take action unless British law is broken.

Loyalists in attacks on police homes

Continued from page 1

turned on the police in their homes where they are at their most vulnerable.

A young police reservist recovering in hospital was described as "well" after being shot in the back in his home in North Belfast early yesterday.

Loyalists also fired at police officers conducting a follow-up search. Shots were fired at the home of a reservist in Newtownabbey but no one was injured. In the Shankill Road area of Belfast, the son, aged five, of a reservist escaped injury when loyalists hurled a petrol bomb through a bedroom window, causing extensive damage to the house which he had recently put up for sale.

Another police officer's home near by was petrol bombed. Mr Martin Gillespie, a neighbour of one of the officers, said that the police were Protestants in RUC uniform, and as they had opened up on Protestants, loyalists had a right to retaliate.

RUC challenge, page 12

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مكتبة ابن خلدون

Provision for children after divorce far from adequate, report says

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Children of divorcing parents were forced out of the matrimonial home in about 50 per cent of cases with inadequate, if any, maintenance awarded for them and the former wives, according to a new survey of divorce settlements.

It shows that contrary to the principle that the custodian parent should remain in the home with the children, half the children in more than 100 settlements had to move out, usually because the house was sold.

Awards for children, although frequent, were often inadequate to cover the costs of the children as determined by the National Foster Care Association, the survey says.

It also shows that in spite of the belief that former wives often receive over-generous maintenance awards, the sums ordered for wives with dependent children were unlikely to cover their expenses.

The survey, published in the *Solicitors' Journal*, was conducted at Leeds University on the basis of 105 settlements negotiated by solicitors locally for divorcing couples who owned their own homes.

Miss Margaret Southwell, the research fellow, says every year 87,000 children under 16 are affected by their parents' divorce.

In the survey, maintenance was ordered for the children in 73 per cent of decided cases, and was more frequent where the children were under 10 years old. But the sums awarded were only adequate to cover their needs in 35 per cent of cases.

Where the former wife had custody - which happens in 87 per cent of divorces - maintenance was ordered for her in 37 per cent of cases, the survey shows. Such mothers were more likely to get an order for maintenance where the house was sold than if they stayed in the home.

The sums ordered were unlikely to cover the former wives' expenses. Few custodian mothers were fully compensated for the loss of or reduction in earning capacity resulting from their child care duties, and most received no compensation at all.

The matrimonial home was sold in 32 per cent of cases, with one parent remaining in occupation in nearly 70 per cent of cases; roughly the same figures as for divorcing couples with no young children.

The presence of children was therefore not a significant factor in the sale of the home.

The separation of parents is a traumatic experience, the article says, and judicial practice is supposed to allow the custodian parent to stay in the home with the children. Such practice does not apply in many cases, according to the findings.

Custody was an important factor in deciding which party should remain in the home, but the value of the home was another factor.

The higher the value, the more likely the former husband was to remain, which conflicts with the principle that children's needs should be paramount, the article says.

The survey was based on settlements mostly reached between June 1983 and June 1984, before the new Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 which gives first consideration should be given to the welfare of children.

Domesday Book is bound to please

By Alan Hamilton

The Domesday Book, rebound into five volumes instead of its original two, goes on display at the Public Record Office in London for the summer from today as part of the celebrations to mark the 900th anniversary of its compilation.

Encased in a steel security cage at the Public Record Office branch at Kew, restorers and bookbinders have been working for several months replacing the previous binding, applied in 1952, which has failed to stand up to the attentions of scholars leafing through the sheepskin parchment pages. Every page has also been photographed for the production of a full-colour facsimile edition to go on sale soon at a cost of £2,500.

King William's survey of his newly-conquered land is treated with reverence by the Public Record Office, who look after it with greater care than in the days when its covers were food for worms in a below-stairs cupboard in the chapter house at Westminster Abbey.

Dr Geoffrey Martin, keeper of the public records, said at a preview of the exhibition yesterday: "There is no comparable record of such antiquity still in the keeping of the government which ordered it. It is as much a national monument as the Tower of London."

Splitting Great Domesday, covering the majority of England, and Little Domesday, covering East Anglia, into five volumes was to make them easier to handle, Dr Martin explained. Bound into one volume, Great Domesday is nearly nine inches thick.

The exhibition, which portrays life in eleventh-century England, also attempts to explain Domesday, essentially



Edward Peters, aged 11, from Sittingbourne, Kent, with a page of the Domesday Book which traces his ancestry back to 1086 (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

a survey rather than a full-scale census. In keeping with latter-day bureaucratic practice, all returns by the roving commissioners to the book's editors at Winchester had to be filled out in triplicate.

It contains two million words, names 13,418 places, and values England at £73,000. It lists the country as having, among other classes of Saxon peasant, 109,230 villeins, 28,235 slaves, 1,027 priests, 16 beekeepers, and one female jester. It also records the Saxon equivalent of the Consumer Protection Act, in Chester: "Anyone who made bad beer was either put on the dung stool or paid four shillings the reeves."

Widows who had unlawful sexual relations were punished with a fine of 100 shillings, although young girls committing the same misdemeanour were let off more lightly. Breaches of planning regulations, such as building a fence too close to the road, also attracted a fine of 100 shillings.

Dr Martin hopes that the publicity over Domesday's anniversary will encourage original scholarly research into its compilation. "It is the work of one mind, but of several hands. We would like to know more of the various scribes who wrote it."

Mother fears girl disappeared with person she knew

The mother of Sarah Harper, the missing schoolgirl, collapsed in grief after making an emotional appeal yesterday for the return of her daughter.

Mrs Jackie Harper said: "If she is dead, at least she cannot be hurt any more. But we do hope she is alive."

The girl, aged 10, vanished from her home in Morley, West Yorkshire, last week after going to a local shop for a loaf of bread and crisps.

Mrs Harper, aged 26, was cradled in the arms of her mother, Mrs Marlene Hopton, aged 48, as she spoke publicly for the first time about her daughter's disappearance. She said Sarah would never have gone willingly with a stranger.

After a press conference organized by the police, Mrs Harper buckled at the knees and had to be helped out by her mother and a member of the Salvation Army.

In a shaky voice and clutching a packet of paper tissues, Mrs Harper said: "She is one-third of my life. I just do not know what to say. I cannot remember a right lot to be honest. I just feel so guilty for sending her out, but she had been so many times."

Mrs Harper said: "You just do not think. I just want her back. Even if she is dead, just pick up the telephone and tell us where the body is."

"She would not go with someone strange, not willingly she would not. The last time she ran off and took the registration number of the car. She would not go with someone she does not know. It is someone she knows. It is someone she knows."

"I imagine someone from the area. I have always drilled it into her, if someone tries to take her, to scream and shout and kick and make as much noise as possible no matter what they offered."

Mrs Harper sat between Det Supt John Stainthorpe and her mother.

As she was helped from her seat, Mrs Harper turned back to reporters and said: "I just want to thank everybody who have done everything. Please, whoever has got her, please bring her home."

Mrs Harper is divorced from her daughter's father, Terry. She has another daughter, Clare, aged nine, and a son David, aged five.

Hundreds of local people have helped police to scour the town, near Leeds, but no trace of Sarah has been found.

Later, Mrs Stainthorpe said he was now asking everyone in the Peel Street area of Morley to try to recall where they were last Wednesday evening when the girl was abducted.

He said neighbours should write down or make a mental note of their movements for the police who would call to interview them.

He was released after a campaign by local people.

Glenn Pearson, aged 33, of Caistor, Lincolnshire, was jailed for a week and then moved to a mental hospital, where he spent two and a half months, after appearing at Lincoln Crown Court on a burglary charge.

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BBC aims for world TV service

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC is to attempt to set up a television version of the World Service, producing one or two 30-minute news and current affairs programmes daily.

The service would be offered to foreign broadcasters and carried on BBC 2. Television Centre and External Services have been considering a television version of the popular foreign radio service for some time, and recently delivered a working party report to Mr Alasdair Milne, director general.

Mr Austen Kark, managing director of BBC external broadcasting, said: "We believe that the BBC is uniquely placed to provide such a service, given its unrivalled reputation worldwide together with the professional and editorial skills available in both External Services and the television service."

"We also believe that a start has to be made if Britain is to remain in the forefront of international broadcasting."

The project team is due to report in August, and has yet to decide how the service would be distributed or broadcast. The Independent Broadcasting Authority advertised yesterday for contractors for three television services by direct broadcast satellite. The would-be franchise holders must apply before August 29.

The winners are due to be announced before the end of the year. The IBA hopes the services will be on the air by 1990. The advertisements follow the failure of the BBC and ITV companies to launch a DBS venture.

Crossroads actor banned

Harry Nurni, who plays an Australian barman in *Crossroads*, the independent television soap opera, was fined £200 and banned from driving for 15 months by Marlborough Street magistrates yesterday after he admitted driving while over the legal alcohol limit in Soho in February.

Nurni, aged 25, of Oakland Road, Moseley, Birmingham, was also fined £50 for jumping bail and given an absolute discharge for driving without a licence. He said after the hearing that the ban would not affect his part in *Crossroads*.

Drivers saved

Royal Automobile Club patrols rescued more than 600,000 stranded drivers between last October and February, 36,000 more than in the same period a year ago, officials said yesterday.

Labour to control alcohol adverts

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Alcohol and tobacco advertisements will face legal controls from a future Labour government, as will those that portray women in a "degrading" fashion.

The charter for consumers, launched at a Fulham by-election press conference yesterday, was immediately condemned by the advertising industry as an unnecessary "puritan charter".

The Labour document says that far too many advertisements give a false impression and carry little or no relevant information, with women portrayed too frequently in a degrading fashion.

It therefore proposes a statutory code of advertising practice to replace the existing "inadequate" self-regulatory system. The code would require advertisements to be truthful and seek to discourage "the degrading or sexist portrayal of women".

Advertisements deemed sexist would include those where women were used although they were not relevant to the products.

The Labour blueprint also proposes:

- A ban on tobacco advertising except where it is sold.
- Strict control of advertising of alcohol and medicines.

Scepticism on comet virus idea

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The theory that viruses from comets are a source of unexplained epidemics of viral and bacterial illnesses had a mixed reaction yesterday.

The idea is proposed by two eminent astronomers, Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe and Sir Fred Hoyle, and an epidemiologist, Dr John Watkins.

An noticeable aspect of the reaction to such a startling theory was the unusual reluctance of fellow astronomers to give an opinion for the record. But a leading authority on the structure of viruses, Dr John Skehel, head of virology at the National Institute for Medical Research, said: "I do not think anyone knows enough to say unequivocally what the origin (of viruses) is."

There is a strongly-held view that they may be genetic elements that originated from the break-up of cells.

Dr Skehel believed "it was an unnecessary additional proposal to make a jump into space to look for an explanation for some bouts of illness that lacked a classic epidemiological explanation".

On Monday the British Sports Council approved a scheme called Action Sport to be run on similar lines in London, the South-west and Yorkshire and Humberside. About 400 people will be employed initially.

Research by the Policy Studies Institute found that 59 out of 226 people employed in the scheme during its first year had found other jobs. Mr Malcolm Rigg, who produced the report, said: "It confirmed the view that if you have a job, it's easier to get another one."

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Welsh job scheme 'is success'

By Gavin Bell

A scheme to reduce unemployment and increase participation in sport in Wales has been a success in its first year, according to an independent study.

The report on Operation Sport was published yesterday, only a few days after plans were announced for a similar, but larger, project in England.

The Welsh venture, run by the Sports Council with the Manpower Services Commission, and launched in March 1984, provided 171 places for unemployed people to initiate and supervise sports sessions.

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Vital clue of missing Calvi briefcase found by Italian MP

One of the world's most sought-after briefcases, the voluminous black bag with the gold initials RC which belonged to the late Roberto Calvi, has reappeared here in the possession of a right-wing parliamentarian.

The briefcase was last known to have been taken by Calvi on the eve of the spectacular collapse of his Banco Ambrosiano when he fled to London in June 1982. A few days later his body was found hanging under Blackfriars Bridge.

But the famed briefcase, said at the time to be bulging with secrets, was found with keys and material inside for blackmail, was nowhere to be found.

Its contents were considered likely to throw light on whether Calvi committed suicide or was murdered. It was also thought to contain documents dealing with his association with Michele Sindona, the other famous Italian bankrupt whose death in a high-security

prison here on March 20 is ascribed to cyanide poisoning.

Senator Giorgio Pisanò, of the right-wing Italian Social Movement, said on Tuesday night that he had bought the briefcase from two unidentified persons for 50 million lire (£23,000). He allowed it to be shown on television before turning it over to the investigators.

Its contents were emptied under the cameras. They consisted of 23 keys, two Nicaraguan diplomatic passports, apparently for the use of Calvi and his wife, a certificate of guarantee for a diamond, a postcard of Milan Cathedral, some family photographs and some letters, three of which were addressed to prelates at the Vatican.

Two of them, addressed to Cardinal Pietro Palazzini, are said to contain Calvi's last pleas for help. The cardinal is head of the Sacred Congregation, which deals with the canonization of saints.

Three men who accompanied Calvi on his flight to London took part in the television programme. Signor Flavio Carboni and his assistant, Signor Silvano Vittor, described as a retired smuggler, arranged Calvi's escape by way of Trieste, Yugoslavia and Austria.

Signor Carboni confirmed that the briefcase was Calvi's and that the dead banker had it with him throughout their journey and during his stay in London.

Senator Pisanò takes a different view. He has followed Calvi's career in detail because he was a member of the commission of inquiry into the Masonic lodge known as P2, to which both Calvi and Sindona belonged.

"I think it never got to London," he said. "It never went further than Yugoslavia and Austria. And someone probably took some things out of it."



Calvi's briefcase (left) and Monsignor Paul Marcinkus (top), head of the Vatican bank to which Calvi (below) went for help.



Zhivkov calls for modern style

Sofia (Reuters) — Mr Todor Zhivkov, the veteran Bulgarian leader, opened a congress of his ruling Communist Party here yesterday with a call for a new style of management to bring advanced technology to the Balkan state's economy.

Echoing the self-critical approach adopted at last month's Soviet party congress in Moscow, Mr Zhivkov blamed managers for covering up weaknesses and failures, and attacked a rising tide of absenteeism, lack of order and indiscipline.

Bangui deaths rise to 35

Paris (AP) — Four people injured when a French Jaguar fighter jet crashed into a school house in Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, have died in a French hospital.

They bring to 35 the number of people killed in the accident on March 27.

Wrong Caine

Rouen (AFP) — Reports that British actor Michael Caine and his sister had been involved in a car crash here Friday were based on mistaken identity by local police, they said here.

Bush tour

Vice-President George Bush begins a four-nation tour of the Middle East with the Iran-Iraq war a key issue on his agenda.

Gulf helicopter page 9

Turks protest

Rome — Mr Musa Celebi and Mr Omer Bagci, the Turks acquitted on Saturday on charges of having conspired to murder the Pope, have protested about having to remain here without means of support until their appeals are heard.

Sihanouk ill

Peking (Reuters) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the anti-Vietnamese Kampuchean guerrilla coalition, has serious health problems including high cholesterol and kidney trouble, according to his doctor.

Airport fine

Honiara (Reuters) — The former Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Mr Solomon Mamaloni, has been fined £142 for disorderly conduct, including carrying a lit cigarette near an aircraft being refuelled, at the country's international airport.

Baton theft

Prague (AP) — Police are searching for the thief who stole the baton of the famous Czech composer Smetana from Prague museum.

Honest Bill

Montreal (AP) — Honesty paid for Mr William Murphy, unemployed and on welfare, when he returned a lost lottery ticket worth the equivalent of more than \$5 million and was given more than \$850,000 as a reward.

Zimbabwe customs men freed

From Jan Raath, Harare

Two senior customs officers were freed on the orders of the Supreme Court here yesterday after 41 days of custody that courts have consistently rejected as illegal.

On only one other occasion in Zimbabwe's six-year history had the judiciary stepped in to order the release of political prisoners implemented.

Mr Kenneth Harper, aged 43, the Controller of Customs and Excise, and Mr John Austin, aged 36, the Chief Customs Investigation Officer, were held first in detention under state of emergency laws, and then on remand under Zimbabwe's criminal code on allegations they had "spied" for South Africa.

Affidavits and statements in the courts in the numerous hearings have stated that the two were seized from their homes on February 22 solely on the wishes of Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa, the Minister of State for National Security.

Lawyers representing the two men have waged the most vigorous opposition seen in courts here against Zimbabwe's laws of detention without trial. Human rights organisations charge that the broad scope of the laws are often abused by regular police and the Central Intelligence Organisation.

How to visit the Khyber

From Michael Hamlyn, Islamabad

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, flew into Islamabad last night and said his main purpose in being here was "to stand at Pakistan's north-west frontier and affirm once again Britain's support of the Pakistan position in the face of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan".

Sir Geoffrey will in fact go to the Khyber Pass and at Michni Point gaze down into Afghanistan tomorrow. He will visit a refugee camp and meet Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami group of Mujahidin rebels.

The professor chairs the seven-party alliance of moderate and fundamentalist resistance groups. In his meeting today with Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Sir Geoffrey will also be anxious to find out Pakistan's position on the round of talks with the UN deputy Secretary-General, Señor Diego Cordovez, who is shuttling between Kabul, Islamabad and New York in an effort to get peace negotiations going again.

Señor Cordovez is reported as having obtained a timetable for withdrawal of Soviet troops, but the stumbling block now is over the principle of simultaneity.

Diplomat set free after hostage ordeal

Ottawa — The Vice-Consul at the Bahamas High Commission here, Mrs Janet Rahming, aged 33, was released unharmed yesterday after being held hostage overnight by a gunman.

Her captor, armed with a collection of weapons, bargained with police for the release of a convict and for an unused Ottawa fire station to be turned over to the needy.

It was not immediately known if his demands were met.

Most black pupils return to school

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Large numbers of black pupils returned to school yesterday after the decision taken at a conference of the National Education Crisis Committee in Natal at the weekend to call an indefinite halt to class boycotts.

Some observers, however, felt it was still too early to forecast whether attendance would be maintained. In some parts of the country, particularly in the Cape Town area, the back-to-school turnout was low.

The best school turnout was reported in townships in the Durban area where the conference was held. Principals and teachers said classes were almost full.

In the Western Cape, however, Mr Piet Scheepers, local director of the Department of Education, admitted the turnout was below expectations. Teachers blamed the response on meetings held at the weekend.

Nasa confirms finding shuttle rocket booster

From Michael A.H. Washington

A large piece of wreckage pulled from the Atlantic a fortnight ago is part of the shuttle Challenger's right solid fuel rocket booster, the main suspect in the explosion which killed the crew of seven just after takeoff on January 20, a Nasa spokesman said.

This was the first confirmation that the naval salvage team had recovered a key part of the right booster rocket. The spokesman said the 875lb fragment contained part of the joint suspected in the explosion but it came from the opposite side of the area where flames were seen soon after blast-off.

Protest at carrier near Rock

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain protested formally to Spain yesterday about an incident in which Spain's only aircraft carrier violated the territorial waters of Gibraltar.

But British officials are playing down the seriousness of the incident to prevent souring relations between London and Madrid on the eve of King Juan Carlos's state visit this month.

The incident took place on the night of March 20-21. British officials said that the 16,000-tonne Dedalo, flagship of the Spanish Navy, entered Gibraltar's waters without notification or permission and launched two helicopters into Gibraltar's airspace.

This is considered particularly dangerous in view of the carrier's proximity to Gibraltar airport, though minor incursions are not unusual.

The violation occurred in Algeciras Bay, west of Gibraltar. The Dedalo crossed the "median line" marking the divide between Gibraltar and Spanish waters west of Europa Point, at the southern tip of the peninsula, then sailed north-east towards Gibraltar airport before turning back into Spanish waters north of the end of the runway.

At one stage it was said to be just a mile from the runway. British officials yesterday dismissed as fanciful reports that Spanish Navy "rebels" had sailed the ship deliberately into Gibraltar's waters in order to wreck the royal visit.

Britain is seeking a full explanation from Madrid. ● MADRID: The Spanish Government has immediately rejected Britain's protest, which was handed over to the Foreign Ministry here yesterday (Richard Wigg writes).

The fact that King Juan Carlos is soon to make the first Spanish state visit to Britain for more than 80 years explains why the protest was made only at senior official level, and not by the British Ambassador, Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox.

Berlin's ruling party admits hiring extremists for polls

Herr Heinrich Lummer, the Christian Democrat deputy mayor of West Berlin, has admitted giving money from party funds to right-wing extremists.

It is alleged that in return the extremists, among other jobs for Herr Lummer and his party, pasted material over Social Democrat posters in an election campaign.

Christian Democrat politicians in Bonn are hoping that this is the most serious activity for which the money was used. They will then be able to pass it all off as the usual mischievous behaviour expected at election times.

Since Chancellor Kohl is being investigated for alleged false testimony — to do with money — his party is extremely worried about being thought of as the party of corruption.

West Berlin is already regarded by most West Germans as an inherently corrupt city. In the 30 years in which the

power and sex (the toleration of illegal brothels).

All that was lacking was neo-Nazism. This has now been supplied by Herr Lummer. He gave money to the "Action Community of June 17" — June 17, 1933, being the date of the East Berlin uprising against the Communists.

Herr Lummer says the money came from Christian Democrat funds and was intended to stop a right-wing party from contesting a local election and thus splitting the conservative vote.

It is a measure of the tone of West Berlin public life that he seems to see this admission as a defence. Herr Lummer's critics, some of whom are in his own party and in its ally the Free Democratic Party, think that the explanation could be more sinister. They say he has always been attracted to the radical right.

Flu and age profit France's pariahs

From Diana Geddes, Paris

By a quirk of fate, the first session of the eighth National Assembly of the Fifth French Republic was opened yesterday with a member of the extreme-right National Front — the pariah of the new Parliament — occupying the President's chair.

Mr Marcel Dassault, aged 94, founder of the aerospace company of the same name, who, as the oldest member, was to have taken up his right to preside over the opening session and to give the inaugural speech, sent a message at the last moment to say that he was still suffering from "a bad flu" and would be unable to attend.

His place was, therefore, taken by the next oldest member, Mr Edouard Frédéric-Dupont, aged 83, former affiliated member of the Gaullist RPR parliamentary

group and now one of the 35 National Front deputies who have entered Parliament for the first time, and whose attitude to the new right-wing government constitutes one of the many "unknowns".

Mr Frédéric-Dupont, who read out Mr Dassault's speech to a packed House, including Mr Jacques Chirac, the new Prime Minister, remained in the President's chair until the election of the new President of the Assembly, Mr Jacques Chaban-Delmas, aged 71, former Gaullist Prime Minister.

The session was off to a rowdy start when a National Front deputy sprang to his feet to protest against the presence of 10 deputies whose election was still being contested, while the Communists and other deputies tried to drown him in a barrage of abuse and banging of desk lids.

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EEC calls for urgent cash talks

Brussels — The EEC Commission called yesterday for urgent talks with the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament after issuing a warning that the Community is running out of cash for social and regional spending (Richard Owen writes).

Mr Henning Christophersen, the budget commissioner, said that supplementary budgets were also needed because of the decline of the dollar.

A supplementary budget would guarantee the payment this year of Britain's budget rebate of about £300 million.

Mr Grigoris Varris, commissioner for structural funds, said the social fund would run out in October and the regional fund in November because the Council and Parliament had failed to respect the balance between commitments and appropriations.

Fears grow for Britons as French quit Lebanon

Silence on missing teachers

By Our Foreign Staff

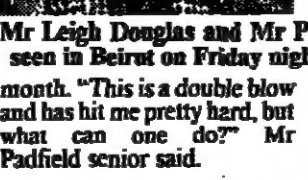
Beirut — Efforts to find two British teachers missing in Beirut produced no clues yesterday, increasing fears that they may have been kidnapped. A British Embassy spokesman said contact had been made "with various parties" to determine whether they have been abducted, but "we have nothing solid so far".

Mr Leigh Douglas, aged 34, a political science teacher at the American University of Beirut, and Mr Philip Padfield, aged 40, director of Beirut's International Language Centre, were last seen on Friday at the Back Street, one of the few public houses still functioning in the city's Muslim sector.

Mr Douglas, of Stalham, Norfolk, has lived in Beirut for eight years and Mr Padfield, of Bideford, Devon, for 13 years. They dined together on Friday night and went to Back Street for a nightcap. "They left about midnight," a friend said, "and no one has seen them since."

On Saturday and Sunday, Easter well-wishers left messages at their respective apartments, but they went unanswered. The management of Mr Padfield's centre, known as the Rashidien school, reported his disappearance on Sunday. The alarm was sounded when Mr Douglas failed to show up at classes on Tuesday.

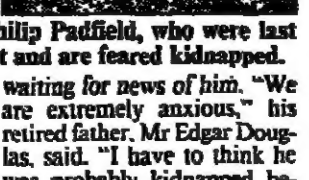
None of the militias controlling west Beirut has hinted what could have happened to the teachers, and no underground organisation has yet claimed any abductions. At least six other Britons were kidnapped in west Beirut last year. One of them, Mr



Mr Leigh Douglas and Mr Philip Padfield, who were last seen in Beirut on Friday night and are feared kidnapped.

month. "This is a double blow and has hit me pretty hard, but what can one do?" Mr Padfield senior said.

The family of Mr Douglas in Norfolk yesterday were



The family of Mr Douglas in Norfolk yesterday were

which the Foreign Office has refused to contemplate. Appeals by Sir John for Mr Collett's release have been met only by warnings from his captors that his health is in danger and that Britain should send 10 kidney dialysis machines to hospitals in southern Lebanon, one of which would be used to treat him.

The most disturbing element of his abduction was that his original kidnappers — led by a gunman who referred to himself as "Captain Black" — appeared to have put him "on sale" to other groups, passing him on to Abu Nidal's faction only after negotiations with other militias which might have had an interest in holding a Westerner. No Briton can be immune from this.

Paris insists there is no change in policy

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France's decision to withdraw its 45 observers from Beirut "in no way signifies a change in French policy in Lebanon", Mr Alain Juppé, the government spokesman, said after yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

"The withdrawal is the result of an objective establishment of the facts. Our observers are no longer able to accomplish their mission, namely to ensure the respect of the ceasefire between the various Lebanese factions," he said, adding that the "different parties concerned" had expressed the wish that the observers should leave.

The close relationship between France and Lebanon dates back to 1860 when France was made responsible for re-establishing order in Lebanon after the massacre of 22,000 Christians by the Druze.

In 1920, Lebanon was made a French mandated territory and was governed by France until independence in 1943. The last French troops were evacuated in 1946, but a "special relationship" between the two countries continued.

1978: 700 French troops returned to Lebanon as part of the 4,000-strong United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil); 1,400 French soldiers are still serving with Unifil in the south of the country.

April 15, 1982: Two French diplomats killed. May 24, 1982: French Embassy attacked with a car bomb — 10 dead, 21 injured. August 18, 1982: 800 French soldiers sent to Beirut as part of the multinational force to supervise the withdrawal of

25,000 supporters of the PLO leader, Yasser Arafat. Mission ends September 13, 1982. September 24, 1982: New multinational security force, totalling 3,300 men, sent to Beirut after the Sabra and Chatila massacres, including 1,100 French soldiers. October 23, 1983: 58 French paratroopers and 241 US Marines killed in separate suicide car bomb attacks. November 17, 1983: French planes bomb Shia Muslim training camp near Baalbek. March 31, 1984: Last members of French contingent of the multinational force leave Beirut a month after the evacuation of the American troops. Total French losses over preceding 18 months: 88 dead. March 1984: French observer mission sent to Beirut at the request of President Gemayel to oversee ceasefire. March 22, 1985: Two French diplomats, Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, kidnapped by Shia Muslim extremists in Beirut; still being held. May 22, 1985: Two more French hostages, Michel Senar, a sociologist, and Jean Paul Kauffmann, a journalist, seized. Senar's "execution" was subsequently announced by the Islamic Jihad on March 10, 1986; Kauffmann still being held. March 14, 1986: Four-man French television crew seized in Beirut; still being held. March 13, 1986: Seventh member of French observer mission killed in an ambush. April 1, 1986: Decision to withdraw remaining 45 members of observer mission.

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هاتفك من الامبريال

Salvador bombs sweep guerrillas from their volcano fortress

From John Carlin, Apopa, El Salvador

Long a military bastion and symbol of the Salvadoran guerrillas' revolutionary resilience, El Salvador's most rugged mountain, Guazapa volcano, has fallen into government hands, the Army's most significant success since President Duarte took office in June 1984.

Just 15 miles north of the capital, San Salvador, Guazapa volcano is a natural fortress full of caves and deep ravines, an irritant to the Army and constant reminder, until very recently, that it can never drop its guard against the 6,000 guerrillas of the left-wing Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

After a siege which lasted six years — as long as the civil war itself — the American-supplied air power of the Salvadoran military finally proved too much for the bomb-blasted guerrillas.

They fled north last month, to the mountains of Chalatenango province, as their smoken-checked camp-followers — mainly undernourished children, their mothers and sturdy grandparents — were literally rounded



Guazapa volcano, a natural fortress, has been captured by the FMLN.

Through the mountains of Chalatenango province, by far the biggest in Central America, FMLN forces have been dropping hundreds of thousands of pounds of bombs on the volcano.

For days at a time the guerrillas and their supporters took refuge in dark underground bomb shelters carved out of the mountainside.

Simultaneously, soldiers, a total of 5,000, would make their way up the volcano in a long-planned attack code-named "Operation Phoenix", co-ordinated by American military advisers and the Army High Command.

"We were 14 days underground. The planes were dropping so many bombs we couldn't get out, not even once, to fetch food or water."

Señora Tomas Perez, aged 24, mother of four bloated little children, said.

Señora Perez, who said the Army set fire to her home, is one of more than 1,000 people who in recent weeks have been swelling what has become known as the Calle Real (Royal Road) refugee camp near Apopa.

Two American nuns run the camp, which held barely 200 of El Salvador's 500,000 refugees in December and is now both haven and jail to more than 1,000 ragged guerrilla sympathizers.

"We're safe from the bombs here," a 50-year-old father of six said, "and they feed us well. But we're also prisoners. If we try and get back to Guazapa the Army has told us we'll be killed."



Mr. Caspar Weinberger, the US Secretary of Defense, looks into North Korea through binoculars from a South Korean guard post at Songhak.

Mr. Weinberger, who is in Seoul for a two-day security meeting, yesterday assured his South Korean counterpart, Mr. Lee Ki Baek, that the US would keep its forces in South Korea as long as Seoul needed them.

The two defence chiefs also agreed their countries would intensify joint military exercises over the next few years: a period which Mr Lee considers "critical".

Mexico gets its man

Mexico City — The most wanted man in Mexico, General Arturo Durazo, the capital's former police chief, arrived here yesterday after US authorities ordered his deportation from a Los Angeles jail to face charges of extortion, illegal possession of weapons and probably murder (John Carlin writes).

General Durazo, police chief from 1976 to 1982, was captured by the FBI in Puerto Rico two years ago and held in the US pending an extradition request from Mexico, which was granted on Tuesday.

A symbol of the corruption of the six-year administration of former President José López Portillo, his childhood friend and the man who appointed him police chief, he retired in 1982, colossally rich.

He has been accused of ordering several murders, heading a drug ring with international links and extorting millions of pounds.

With Mexicans thirsty for revenge, every detail of his extradition case in Los Angeles provoked headlines.

General Durazo has often said he feared for his life on return to Mexico. He arrived before dawn from Santiago yesterday and was transferred to a maximum security prison in the Mexican capital pending a court appearance.

US pledge to return 'millions'

Manila recovers titles to Marcos Philippines land

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The head of the commission investigating the hidden wealth of former President Marcos of the Philippines returned home yesterday with property titles valued at \$25 million (about £17 million), alleged to have been secretly acquired by Mr Marcos.

Mr Jovito Salonga, chairman of the Commission on Good Government, said the titles covered more than 18,500 acres of land in the Philippines.

During his 19-day trip, he said, US officials assured him that the Manila Government would be able to recover "in a few months" hundreds of millions of dollars in Marcos-controlled real estate.

"A good portion of the ill-gotten wealth will surely be recovered," said Mr Salonga, who earlier estimated that the personal fortune of Mr Marcos and his wife, Imelda, could reach \$10 billion.

The five-member commission was set up by President Aquino.

Mr Salonga, a former senator once jailed by Mr Marcos, said the commission hoped to learn the extent of the deposed president's financial empire with the help of 2,300 pages of documents he took with him

when he fled to Hawaii. US authorities provided Mr Salonga with copies of the documents last month.

The 19 land titles, covering properties in Manila and provincial areas, were handed to Mr Ramon Diaz, another commission member, by Mr Jose Campos, a former business associate of Mr Marcos.

Mr Campos fled to Canada before the revolt and last week surrendered the titles to Mr Diaz in Vancouver. He admitted he was Mr Marcos's "front man" and had set up four dummy property companies for the former president's land holdings.

On a separate mission, Mr Pedro Yap, another commission member, discussed with Swiss authorities "concrete steps" to recover assets held by Mr Marcos in six Swiss bank accounts.

Mr Salonga said commission inquiries in the US, Canada and Switzerland exposed "what can only be described as the unprecedented plunder of an entire nation".

The commission has told eight visiting Japanese parliamentarians that Mr Marcos is also suspected of having systematically syphoned off \$500 million in official Japanese aid during his 20 years in power.

Mr Diaz said the cost of projects under the Japan Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund were believed to have been inflated by as much as 20 per cent to cover a commission paid to Mr Marcos.

Meanwhile, thousands of Filipinos employed at five American military installations yesterday returned to work after a 12-day strike. Several thousand defiant workers, however, have rejected the new wage agreement and are continuing to barricade Subic Bay naval base.



Mr Salonga, confident of recovering millions

UN urged to open files on Waldheim

From Zoriana Pysariwsky New York

Jewish organizations and New York legislators have called on the United Nations to open secret files which they claim hold the key to unravelling the full story about Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former UN Secretary-General, who is accused of concealing his Nazi past.

The request came as new evidence was released by the World Jewish Congress purporting to show that he participated in operations against Yugoslav partisans in West Bosnia and the resistance movement in Greece, including Mr George Papandreu, the former Greek Prime Minister and father of Mr Andreas Papandreu, the present prime minister.

There is pressure on the Reagan Administration for members of Congress to determine whether Dr Waldheim should be barred from entering the US.

His file is one of 40,000 on war criminals, suspects and witnesses compiled by the UN War Crimes Commission between 1943 and 1948.

In a letter to Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary-General, four Jewish organizations asked that the UN files on Dr Waldheim be made public and that he be stripped of all UN honours.

Only three files have been made public by the UN: Adolf Eichmann's, which was given to Israel, and those on Josef Mengele and Klaus Barbie, requested by the US.

35 held after 'anarchist' riot in Athens

Athens — Greek police arrested 35 youths yesterday after left-wing extremists rioted in central Athens, hurling fire bombs at police guarding the Socialist party headquarters (Mario Modiano writes).

About 300 youths, described by police as anarchists, said they were protesting against the shooting of a comrade during a police raid on a derelict house.

They set fire to a police van, bombed and gutted a bank, and smashed shop windows.

3 Kenyans jailed for 'sedition'

Nairobi — Three Kenyans were jailed here yesterday after admitting charges of possessing seditious publications — anti-government leaflets (Charles Harrison writes).

Two others were imprisoned last week on charges that they knew that a group of Kenyans were producing seditious publications, but failed to inform the authorities.

A lecturer, Joseph Manje, and an accountant, Geoffrey Maina, were jailed yesterday for five years and a farmer, Peter Kihara, was given a four-year sentence.

All three were said to have been found in possession of seditious leaflets earlier this year. The contents of the leaflets were not revealed and the alleged authors were not identified in court.

Civil servants' dispute paralyses Helsinki

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

Rail and air traffic in the Helsinki area were paralysed yesterday when civil servants and state employees began the first phase of a pay strike.

Flights were diverted to Turku and Tampere, both about 100 miles away, and passengers were taken to and from by bus. Trains stopped outside the capital and mail deliveries as well as pensions and other post office payments were affected.

For the first time in Finnish history, the President's office is on strike, and President Koivisto and his wife have had to move from the official palace to government guest rooms in a leading hotel.

Only 15,000 union members are on strike, but on April 16 the stoppage will become national, it is quite possible that the strike will be pro-

longed, be the civil servants are demanding a rise of about 6 per cent, plus £100 a month.

● STOCKHOLM: Sweden yesterday moved closer to an industrial confrontation likely to bring private industry to a standstill (Christopher Mosey writes).

The Federation of Salaried Employees in Industry and Services (PTK) announced a strike of 50,000 white-collar workers for next Wednesday in response to a lockout of 300,000 men by the Swedish Employers' Confederation.

PTK is seeking a pay increase dated from January 1.

● Pilots' threat: The Swedish air force may lose a fifth of its 500 pilots, who are threatening to resign by December because of low pay (Reuters reports).

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Tangled Lebanese loyalties herald bloodiest battles

Hezbollah key to fundamentalist strife

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

The Druze are re-arming. In the past few days Kalashnikovs, Walther pistols and other weapons and ammunition recently bought in Vienna, have been dispensed liberally to the street veterans of Rasouche and Hama. Even Walid Jumblatt's annual military parade of old T-54 tanks through the ruined streets of Damour was called off, in case they were needed in Beirut. There was no secret about it, for everyone in the Lebanese capital knows, or thinks he knows, what is coming: the most savage street battles in years between the Druze, with their communist and Sunni Muslim allies, and the Shia Muslim forces represented by Nabih Berri's Amal movement.

In reality the conflict will represent much more sinister and critical struggle as Syria urges its most secular militia allies in west Beirut to tear into the forces of the powerful Hezbollah, which has not only eclipsed the declining Amal but now holds sway over much of the city's Muslim sector, mocking even Syria's attempts to impose its will on the country.

So grave has the crisis become that President Assad of Syria is said to have raised it personally with the Soviet leadership during a visit to Moscow he reportedly made last Thursday.

Brigadier General Ghazi Kassar, the head of Syrian military intelligence, has repeatedly visited the Shia religious leaders of west Beirut in the past three months to try to persuade them to stop supporting the Hezbollah.

His words are not taken lightly. After remonstrating with the equally recalcitrant Sunni extremist leader, Sheikh Saïd Shihab, in Tripoli, one of the shah's closest aides was brutally murdered. Few of the shah's followers doubt that the Syrians killed him.

Hezbollah key to unfolding drama

To the West, and to many Arab states, the Hezbollah is a frightening phenomenon, an extreme pro-Iranian movement that is imposing Islamic law in large areas of Lebanon, kidnapping westerners, staging suicide attacks on Israeli occupation troops and executing "agents" in Beirut.

The organizations that exist within it — Islamic Jihad, for example, which holds at least four American and seven Frenchmen captive — are invariably described by western news agencies as secretive or shadowy. There is some truth in these descriptions: but the real story of the Hezbollah, its disputes with rival groups in Lebanon, the growth of its



Centre-stage players in Lebanon's unfolding tragedy: President Assad of Syria, Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Amal leader, and Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran.

power and Iranian funding, provide an essential insight into the drama now unfolding. Hezbollah's roots are twined not only around the foundations of the Iranian revolution but the growth of the Iraqi opposition Daawa party. Lebanese writers now trace its origins to a meeting in the Iraqi city of Najaf in 1969 where the idea of a Shia revolution in Lebanon was first advanced. A number of Shia leaders and clergymen who attended have since become household names in Lebanon and in the files of western intelligence agencies. The discussions took place at the home of Muhammad Bakr Sadr, an Iranian ayatollah and close friend of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Sitting beside Muhammad Bakr was the Iranian imam, Monse Sadr, already well known as a teacher among the rural poor east of the Lebanese

city of Tyre, and Sabhi Tofaili, a Shia cleric who now lives in the Lebanese town of Baasrybek. Muhammad Bakr told Monse Sadr to return to Tyre and to found groups for Islamic indoctrination. Two other Shia figures, Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah and Mehdi Shamseddin, were sent to Lebanon to establish colleges in Beirut.

Monse Sadr, who now led a Lebanese "Shia Higher Council" was, in his way, a constitutionalist, demanding equality for Lebanon's growing Shia population within the existing structure of a Christian-dominated government. The influence of the Daawa, which opposed Christian government for Muslims, was curbed only when Sadr founded the "Lebanese Resistance Brigades", whose Arabic name produced the acronym Amal.

Sadr disappeared in Libya

in 1978 — almost certainly murdered after a dispute with Colonel Gaddafi — but in the following year his "higher council", taking advantage of Khomeini's triumphant revolution, sent a delegation to Tehran led by Shamseddin. While the Iranian leader apparently evinced little enthusiasm for Sadr's "return" — the fiction being maintained that he was missing rather than dead — Khomeini did insist that the Daawa should merge with Amal.

Amal became the only Shia voice

The Lebanese magazine ash-Shiraa, which has carried a learned analysis of Hezbollah's origins, believes that by so doing, Khomeini was trying to bring all Shia groups under his own control. Amal thus became the only

Shia representative movement in Lebanon, its voice projected in Iran by its Tehran representative, Sheikh Ibrahim al-Amine.

But at the height of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Amal's secular, westernized leader, Berri, agreed to join a Lebanese "government of national salvation" which was obliged to negotiate with the Americans for an Israeli withdrawal.

In Iran, al-Amine denounced Berri while Berri's deputy, Hussein Monssawi, left Beirut to found a rival Amal movement in Baasrybek. Their followers borrowed the name used the previous year by those Iranian opposed to Abolhassan Bani-Sadr's presidency in Tehran — Hezbollah, the Party of God.

It was they whom the CIA believed were behind the bombing of the US marine base in Beirut in October 1983 and whom Washington also suspects are holding most of the western hostages kidnapped in Lebanon. Since 1982, Iran has ceased to deal with Amal — which is why Mr Berri has recently been ineffective in securing the hostages' release: Berri's "takeover" of Hezbollah's hijacking of the TWA jet last year marked the end of any hope of Amal-Iranian reconciliation. Al-Amine is now the spiritual leader of the Hezbollah in Beirut.

Ex-leaders unite to confront Khomeini

By Hazhir Teimourian

With talk in Tehran of a new offensive against Iraq north of the city of Basra, Iran's internal opposition — still clinging to a precarious existence — has merged to form an umbrella organization to facilitate its "struggle against despotism".

The Alliance for the Defence of Liberty and the Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation is composed of the Islamic republic's first prime minister, Dr Mehdi Bazargan, and senior figures from the old National Front, the former liberal opposition grouping whose deputy leader, Dr Shahpour Bakhtiar, formed the last government before the revolution of February 1979.

The National Front representatives in the new organization include Mr Ali Ardalan, a former economy minister, and Dr Assadollah Mobashery, a former minister of justice in Dr Bazargan's Cabinet. The alliance's hard-hitting, nine-page opening statement, a copy of which has reached Europe, incurred Ayatollah Khomeini's wrath.

In a recent speech, referring to alliance opposition to the war with Iraq, he said: "Such Muslims are worse than infidels."

Iran hits tankers from Gulf helipad

Bahrain (Reuters) — Iran is

using an oil platform in the middle of the Gulf as a base from which helicopters attack tankers, shipping industry sources said yesterday.

Helicopters are believed to have attacked at least 14 ships this year from the platform, known as Rostam Island, in the centre of an oilfield about 65 miles from the Iranian mainland and close to shipping lanes for Arab Gulf ports.

Since it started using Rostam last year, the focus of Iran's attacks has moved eastwards in the Gulf.

Previous strikes centred on an area of shallows known as the Shah Allum shoal, closer to Qatar's northern tip. Most were carried out by F4 Phantom fighters based on Lavan Island, just off the Iranian mainland. The sources said the captain of the Panamanian tanker, Stelios, reported that a helicopter, which fired a rocket at his ship last Sunday, took off from the Rostam helipad. Iran is short of jets and use of helicopters in these attacks frees fixed-wing aircraft to support its ground offensives further north.

● NICOSIA: Iran said yesterday that its navy had intercepted a cargo ship near the Strait of Hormuz and taken it to a southern port because it suspected the ship was carrying goods for Iraq (AP reports).

Ban stifles meeting on free media

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

A dispute over restrictions on press coverage preceded the opening in Copenhagen yesterday of a meeting on the flow of information sponsored by the United Nations and Unesco.

At an introductory press briefing before the second international round table meeting on a new world information and communications order, Mr Dileep Padgonkar, the Indian-born Director of the Division of Free Flow of Information and Communications at Unesco in Paris, demanded that journalists covering the conference receive clearance permission from participants before quoting from their speeches or papers.

Correspondents, who saw this move as a blatant restriction on their press freedom, were told that such a procedure was necessary to ensure correct coverage of the meeting and engender a freer debate among participants.

Topping the agenda is an assessment of the international flow of information.

Proposals are also on the table to redress the imbalance (between East and West, North and South, and the Third World and the industrial democracies) on media freedom, world communication developments and access to, and participation in, communication globally.

The final report is to be submitted to the UN General Assembly at the end of the Copenhagen session.

US threat alarms Portugal

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Portuguese exporters and government officials are worried by President Reagan's threats to restrict imports from EEC countries on the grounds that the recent entry of Portugal and Spain will cost the US \$1 billion a year in lost agricultural exports, particularly cereals, soya beans and cooking oils.

The Secretary of State for European Integration, Senhor Vitor Martins, said Portugal was concerned that the US might restrict basic Portuguese exports such as wine and textiles.

Portugal's position is not as strong as it once was, but would prefer to negotiate through the EEC, and would support every effort by the EEC to reach an agreement.

Portugal exports \$33 million worth of wine and spirits to the US each year, and exports of textiles have been increasing so rapidly that American manufacturers have become alarmed.

On the other hand, Portugal has been buying most of its cereals and cooking oils from the US, although the high value of the dollar has caused the amount to be cut back from \$700 million worth of wheat, soya beans and other food products in 1984 to \$428 million last year.

Under the EEC agreement, Portugal must buy at least 15.5 per cent of its cereal from the Community for a transition period of five years.

The US Administration says this is a violation of the GATT treaty.

Scandal of \$1m awards

Reagan tries to rein in galloping damages

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan plans to introduce legislation to control runaway damages awards by American juries.

Doctors, in particular, are being sued at record rates by patients who can become instantly rich because of a minor medical error. The average medical malpractice award by juries last year for the first time topped \$1 million (\$667,000).

The legislation will propose significant changes in liability insurance coverage, perhaps including clearly defined limits on the awards juries can make. Contingency lawyers who often become wealthy overnight by taking a percentage of damages awards may have their fees limited.

White House officials believe that some of the steam may be taken out of the "damages industry" once lawyers find such cases less lucrative.

The madness that seems to have gripped so many juries in damages cases was demonstrated graphically last week when a jury in Philadelphia awarded more than \$1 million to a woman who blamed a body

remote Brazilian island where they had been given temporary asylum on February 25.

Colonel Pierre, aged 53, has been accused of torture and murder by political prisoners freed after the former dictator, Jean-Claude Duvalier, fled Haiti. The two countries have no extradition treaty.

remote Brazilian island where they had been given temporary asylum on February 25.

OUT OF AFRICA

AND INTO THE RECORD BOOKS.

EAST AFRICAN SAFARI RALLY

1984 1ST PLACE TOYOTA CELICA

1985 1ST PLACE TOYOTA CELICA

1986 1ST PLACE TOYOTA CELICA



NOW SHOWING AT YOUR LOCAL DEALER
TOYOTA CELICA GT

That's motoring

RESULT SUBJECT OFFICIALS' JUDGMENT

Ambitions of a loyal all-rounder

THE TIMES PROFILE

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE

The Foreign Secretary has been heard to claim that the nearest he ever came to sporting attainment was "runner-up to the best loser" in an army boxing contest. Roughly the same level of achievement met his aspirations for the Conservative Party leadership in 1975, when he collected a few handfuls of votes in the second-ballot contest in which Margaret Thatcher defeated Willie Whitelaw.

Now, however, Geoffrey Howe scores high in the who-next conversations enjoyed by any political party that has had the same leader for more than a decade. "Howe if it's quick, Hurd if it's slow" sums up much political discussion about the succession, after both Michael Heseltine and Leon Brittan had retired hurt from the Cabinet arena.

Douglas Hurd is, in fact, less than four years younger than Sir Geoffrey, who will be 60 this year. But Hurd, newly sprung to prominence as Home Secretary, appears to belong to the younger generation of Tory politicians.

This is partly because Howe has, by now, notched up more top departmental offices than any other Cabinet member. As the life-histories of two other former Chancellors, Denis Healey and Roy Jenkins, all too clearly demonstrate, proven experience never provides a secure platform for a jump at party leadership. And not even the greatest of Howe's admirers would argue that he was a political performer of the brilliance of either Healey or Jenkins at their best. But dogged persistence, steadiness under political fire and sheer likeability are qualities strong enough to make it worth having another try, should the opportunity arise in time. Howe's political career has progressed continuously, if not steadily. From a modest middle-class Welsh background, he distinguished himself by winning an exhibition to Winchester. Once on that track, he moved naturally to Cambridge, to the Bar, and to the usual profusion of committees that make up the curriculum vitae

of the aspiring politician. Two contests in a "hopeless" Welsh seat were followed by two years as member for Bebbington, between 1964 and 1966. Back in Parliament by 1970, as Solicitor-General for Edward Heath, he was credited with responsibility for the ill-fated 1971 Industrial Relations Act, an albatross that hung round his neck for some time.

Five years' apprenticeship shadowing Healey, then Chancellor, led to that post in Mrs Thatcher's Government. Immediately, he ran into trouble again. Big Tory pay promises to public sector unions, combined with an over-ambitious first Budget and an optimistic monetary policy, quickly ran government economic policy into the sand. Typically, Howe hung on, and recovered.

The 1981 Budget was critical. It was tough and unpopular, but in retrospect was the turning point of Sir Geoffrey's career. Under his Chancellorship, the Conservatives were re-elected against a background of record unemployment, but with output rising and inflation low.

The comparison with Hurd is instructive in another way. The Home Secretary stands for the "wet" image of the Conservative party, the Foreign Secretary for the "dry"; but both do so in a subdued fashion.

Some would say, indeed, that Geoffrey Howe's lack of attack was his greatest political defect. The comment by his old opponent, Healey, that being attacked by Howe was like being savaged by a dead sheep has stuck in political memories. Sir Geoffrey is a thinker, but he is not an orator; too often, political journalists have been alerted to the prospect of an epoch-making speech by Howe, only to search in vain for a headline note.

Yet his words are worth listening to, for they come from somewhere close to the heart of the Conservative party. Even though Sir Geoffrey's time at the Treasury epitomized the change in economic policy associated with



Thatcherism, his image never acquired the hard sheen of the far right.

Perhaps this is because the House of Commons retains considerable fondness for Sir Geoffrey, an advantage his more aggressive successor cannot count on. Perhaps it is because his wife, Elspeth, rounds the image by voicing more forthright views of her own than any other cabinet member, particularly those stimulated by her time as vice-chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Some say that Elspeth Howe is her husband's most determined backer for the leadership; others that she is his greatest asset. She remains, however, remarkably free of the *folie de grandeur* which tempers Foreign Secretaries' wives. The Howes' down-to-earth approach has survived despite the fact that the trappings of the job can be compared only to the Prime Minister's. The Foreign Office is grand enough, if gloomy. The Foreign Secretary's London residence, just off The Mall, is brighter, though it still reeks of

officialdom. But the jewel in the Foreign Secretary's crown is a relatively new acquisition: Chevening, the exquisite bequest to the nation by the Earl of Stanhope, now established as the Foreign Secretary's country residence.

Perhaps, however, Howe's soft-right image is the product of his transfer to a job where the petty divisions of British politics are singularly unimportant, and where — in the negotiations over the future of Hong Kong — he secured his most obvious success.

The Foreign Office has given

BIOGRAPHY

1928: Born December 20 at Port Talbot, Glamorgan. Educated at Winchester College and Trinity Hall, Cambridge.
1945-8: Lieutenant in Royal Signals. Chairman Cambridge University Conservative Association.
1952: Called to the Bar, Middle Temple.
1953: Married Elspeth Rosamund Morton Shand.
1955: Chairman Bow Group. Contested Aberavon and again in 1959.
1964-6: Elected MP for Bebbington.
1965: Opposition front bench spokesman on labour and social services. Queen's Counsel.
1970: Elected MP for Reigate (subsequently Surrey East). Appointed Solicitor-General by Edward Heath, and subsequently knighted.

1972: Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs. Privy Councillor.
1974: Opposition front bench spokesman on social services.
1975: Stands for Tory leadership. Mrs Thatcher wins. Appointed "Shadow Chancellor" by Mrs Thatcher.
1979: Chancellor of the Exchequer. First Budget raises VAT to 15 per cent and cuts basic rate of income tax to 30 per cent.
1981: Third Budget cuts public borrowing.
1983: Fifth and last Budget precedes general election by cutting income tax. After election, moves to become Foreign Secretary.
1984: Clinches deal with Chinese Government on the future of Hong Kong.

Howe the opportunity to demonstrate the skills he most enjoys. As Chancellor — again, in marked contrast to Nigel Lawson — he revelled in the globe-trotting that went with the job. As Foreign Secretary, he enjoys displaying the expertise of a former Chancellor, particularly in the interminable financial warfare that characterizes most meetings of the European council of foreign ministers — of which he will take on the chairmanship in the second half of this year. Nine years on the international circuit of finance and foreign ministers has given him a useful, even friendly acquaintance with most of his kind.

When Howe first arrived, after the 1983 election, the Foreign Office was mouldering in the long shadow thrown by its failure to anticipate the Falklands War. To begin with, Howe was seen as too much his mistress's puppet; Mrs Thatcher's instinctive urge to be her own Foreign Secretary, as well as her own Chancellor, seemed to leave Howe as a mere bag-carrier. Early events — the Grenada debacle, and still worse the embarrassingly mishandled business of trade union membership at GCHQ in Cheltenham — did little to encourage Howe's party to believe things would go better if he did seize the reins of the Foreign Office.

Hong Kong changed that. If the Foreign Secretary still cannot count on getting his way with the Prime Minister, his freedom of manoeuvre has increased, and he

is taken seriously in international affairs.

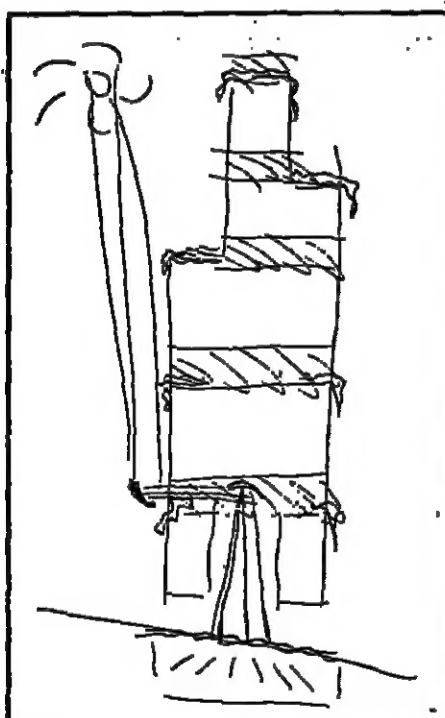
With the greater confidence engendered by this experience, his public performances are improving, allowing his natural good humour to show through. He has always tried to take pains over his television appearances, remembering such details as the need to wear the right kind of spectacles.

If the political lottery never gives Howe a second chance at party leadership, he is equipped to move gracefully into the next generation of respected, even loved, elder statesmen. For that, at least, he has reason to thank Mrs Thatcher.

Some unkindly say this is because he constitutes no threat; but it is worth remembering that in the 1975 contest he got no fewer votes than James Prior, seen as too big a threat ever to be given a top job. Howe shares the Prime Minister's ability to go for long periods with little sleep, a simple fact that may explain much in their political partnership. He displays, at the same time, a greater capacity for enjoying himself.

It is typical of the Howes, in India this week, to take time to snap each other outside the Taj Mahal. And even if Howe is not built on exactly the same elegant lines as Rajiv Gandhi, one must hope that the family album will include some of him in that pretty, yellow turban.

Sarah Hogg



Sun-scraper: Norman Foster's first sketch for his sun-scoop (left), beaming light into the centre of the bank, and how his office masterpiece dominates the old and modern buildings along Hong Kong's crowded shoreline

Banking's jewel in the crown

The world's most expensive new office building will be formally opened in the world's foremost capitalist city on Monday night when Sir Edward Youde, Governor of Hong Kong, performs the ceremony at the £500 million headquarters of the Hongkong Bank.

Its creator is the British architect and Royal Gold Medalist Norman Foster, whose design is a masterpiece of engineering and co-ordination of more than 100 sub-

Rising above Hong Kong's business centre is the world's most innovative bank, a symbol of the colony's faith in the future

contractors and suppliers from 80 countries around the globe. The skyscraper, which at less than 600ft high is small by American standards, is also the most advanced in terms of office accommodation. It incorporates more than 1,800 miles of electronic and communications cabling and a

flexibility of usable space which should ensure its longevity despite the rapid evolution of banking technology.

Located at the heart of Hong Kong's burgeoning business district facing mainland Kowloon, the building occupies the site used by the bank since the middle of the last century. The 1935 building demolished to make way for its successor was, in its day, the tallest and most sophisticated building in Asia.

Similarly, Foster's design eschews the conventional concrete frame and glass curtain walls which characterize Hong Kong, like every other developed city. Instead he has devised a revolutionary struc-

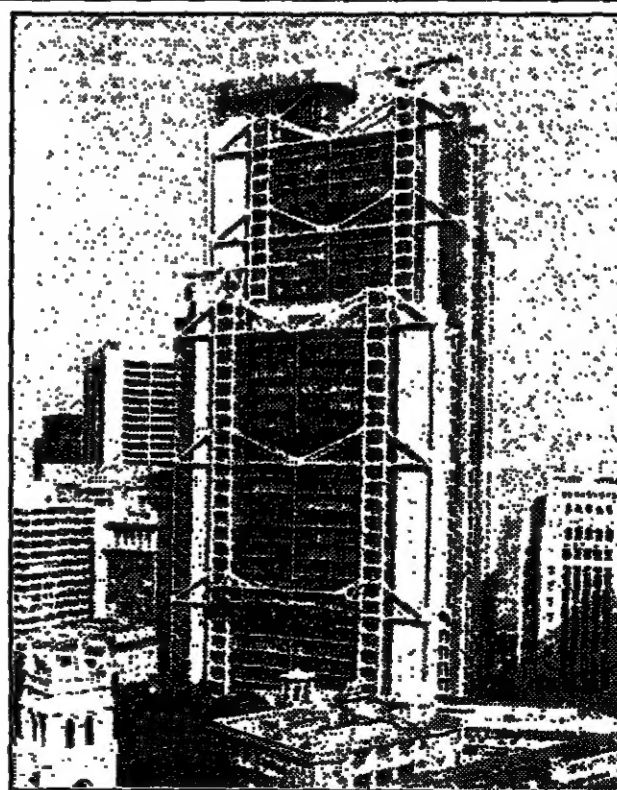
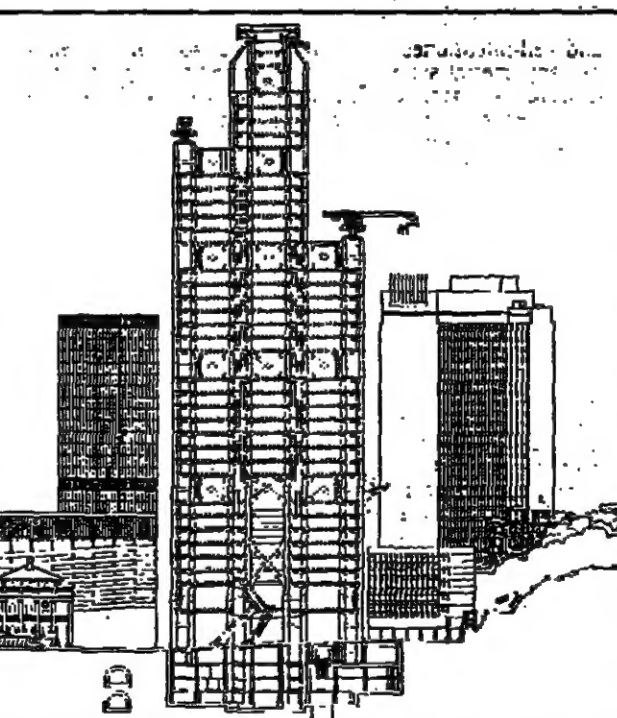
ture which marks the most dramatic advance since the steel-framed "cathedrals of commerce" were built in New York and Chicago 100 years ago.

The building is being seen as a symbol of the almost unbridled optimism that exists about the future of the colony when it is handed over to Communist China in 11 years' time. It sits happily amid the conspicuous wealth and work ethic of its surroundings, a jewel of industrial design and precision engineering writ large, and also a potent corporate symbol now featured on the bank's own HK\$100 notes.

Its structure has been compared with that of the pagoda in its elegant and obvious use of materials. This allows it to seem almost transparent at night when its interior is lit up against the sky. Eight masts of tubular steel carry suspended steel trusses which support the floors.

Lateral movement is restrained against typhoon conditions by "flying braces" both inside and out, doing away with the traditional central core which usually houses the lifts and services. These are located at the ends of the building; 139 prefabricated modules were shipped over from Japan, fitted out with toilets, mirrors and even soap dishes before they left the factory.

Foster believes that escalators are a much more civilized way to travel vertically than lifts: so within the three zones of offices there are 62 escala-



Scene stealer: the architect's dream becomes reality as well as 23 passenger lifts.

The public enter the building via obliquely-placed escalators positioned with the help of a Chinese geomancer. From there they arrive in the cathedral-sized atrium of the banking hall, 170ft and 10 storeys high. Atrium lighting is enhanced by a "sun-scoop" which reflects sunlight from the outside walls. The scoop itself is hung on the face of the building, a computer-controlled array of mirrors which respond to the solar calendar.

Local people, used to a diet of Dallas-style commercial architecture, would have pre-

ferred something more colourful than the building's sleek grey visage fronting the only large public open space at the heart of the island. The same can be said for its interior, where the only colour is provided by some of the furniture selected by the bank against the architect's advice.

Its air of asceticism is perhaps its one fault, but something which might be corrected in time as its owners and occupants get used to it. Meanwhile its place is assured in the architectural history books as one of the masterpieces of the 20th century.

Charles Knevitt

TIMETABLE

1978: Bank commissions feasibility studies to consider options for the redevelopment of 1 Queen's Road Central.
1978: June: Seven firms of architects, including Foster Associates, invited to submit proposals for a new headquarters building.
November: Foster Associates appointed architect.
1980: February: Foster Associates confirmed.
October: John Lok/Wimpey Joint Venture appointed as management contractor.
1981: June: 1935 building closes its doors for the last time.
July: Management contractor's appointment confirmed.
1982: February: Presentation of the final scheme to the Bank.
July: Site preparation work commences.
1983: February: First structural steelwork positioned.
1984: October: Practical completion of structural steelwork.
1985: April: Internal sun-scoop reflector completed.
May: Topping out ceremony to celebrate the practical completion of the cladding and curtain walling.
June: Lions moved from Statue Square back to 1 Queen's Road Central.
July: First phase completion and occupation commences November: Second and final phase completion.
1986: April 7: Sir Edward Youde, Governor of Hong Kong, formally opens the Bank.

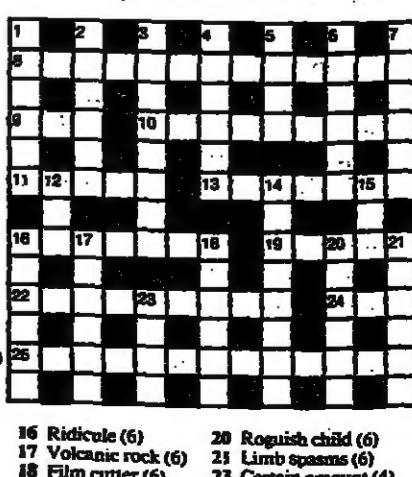
SPECIFICATION

Cost: \$500 million (HK\$5,000 million); approx \$2,000 per sq metre.
Occupation: Phased from July 1 1985, more than 3,500 people.
Completion: November 1985.
Height: 586.6ft (178.8m) above Des Voeux Road. Basement depths 61.7ft (18.8m).
Storeys: 52; 47 above ground, 4 below ground and ground plaza level.
Occupied floors: 42.
Gross area: 1.07 million sq ft (99,200 sq m).
Net Area: 760,000 sq ft (70,400 sq m).
Height of atrium: 170ft (52m); 10 storeys.
Internal transport: 82 escalators, 23 passenger lifts, 4 goods lifts and 1 catering lift.
Structural steelwork: 27,400 tonnes.
Aluminium cladding: 3,500 tonnes.
Glass: 345,000 sq ft (32,000 sq m).
Service modules: 139.
Electrical and communications cabling: 1,864 miles (3,000 km).
Client: Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.
Architect: Foster Associates.
Civil and structural engineers: Ove Arup & Partners.
Mechanical and electrical engineers: J Roger Preston.
Quantity surveyors: Lavett & Bailey with Northcroft.
Neighbour and Nicholson.
Project co-ordinator: R J Mead & Co.
Management contractor: John Lok/Wimpey.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 915

ACROSS
8 Imperceptible (13)
9 As well (3)
10 Know again (9)
11 Eucharist plate (5)
13 Lack of care (7)
16 Use up (7)
19 Emaciated (5)
22 Sentence cut (9)
24 Baby bed (3)
25 Rotting process (13)

DOWN
1 At highest point (6)
2 Skillful (6)
3 Alienate (8)
4 Minister's assistant (6)
5 Difficulty (4)
6 Favour (6)
7 Earliest request (6)
12 Grow old (3)
14 Enormous (8)
15 Defraud (3)



16 Ridicule (6) 20 Ransack child (6)
17 Volcanic rock (6) 21 Limit spaces (6)
18 Film censor (6) 22 Certain amount (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 914

ACROSS: 1 Found 4 Canape 7 Dune 8 Enriches 9 Trans-
mit 13 Pop 16 Eavesdropping 17 Fad 19 Schedule 24 Cus-
comb 25 Sub 26 Claret 27 Repeat

DOWN: 1 Fade 2 Contrived 3 Dregs 4 Clari 5 Nina 6
Pass 10 Noses 11 Mirth 12 Tired 13 Pairs 14 Pogo 15
Self 18 Avail 20 Clout 21 Ember 22 Lair 23 Abut



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شركة الميراث

THE TIMES DIARY

Lambeth squawk

After Red Ted Knight and his 29 Lambeth sidekicks disappeared in a puff of smoke last night, the dominant Tory group is today preparing a counter-attack to prevent a triumphant return of remaining Labour councillors assuming the mantle of power. In a final gesture of defiance to the government, the debarred councillors shifted all powers to the three — the new mayor, Kingsley Smith, his deputy, Lynda Bellof, and Labour moderate Janet Boston — allowing the Tories no say in affairs, despite their 26 seats to Labour's four. Tory leader Mary Leigh said: "We will either take the matter to court immediately or call another council meeting to reverse this gross manipulation of the standing orders." Should the Tories take control after the council elections in May, Miss Leigh promises they will take a close look at some of the officers. Among those under the microscope will be Al Hanagan, chief public relations officer who ran the £700,000 anti-government campaign over rate-capping, and Phil Sealy, principal race relations officer.

Mod cons

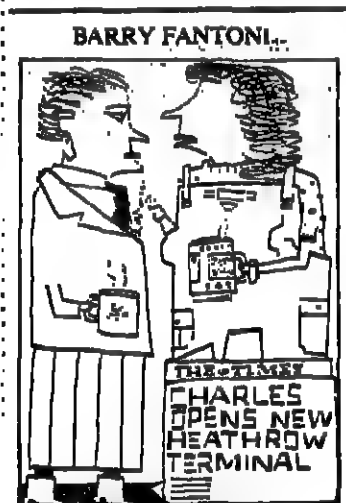
Is Sir Clive Sinclair feeling the pinch since the collapse of his CS company? His four-bedroom Chelsea home has just come on the market at an asking price of £995,000. Among the gadgets Sinclair is leaving behind are sets of electronically operated window blinds, automatically irrigated plant beds, a high-tech kitchen and a back-up generator. Home computers, alas, are not included.

Macsim

Lord Stockton has lost none of his grasp of the nuances of the political scene. After Leon Brittan's replacement by Paul Channon as Trade and Industry Secretary, he was overheard observing to his London club: "I see we now have more Etonians than Estonians in the Cabinet."

Woe upon woe

Will the V & A's troubles never end? I hear that immediately after the flooding caused by a burst pipe a scaffolding plank broke the skylight of an upstairs gallery, scattering glass throughout the room. A few hours later a gust of wind shattered two glass doors. "Voluntary contributions will be accepted even more gratefully than before."



Barry Fantoni

Distaff rules

Hammersmith and Fulham Council has issued a charter pledging that women managers will: "Be honest and open with everyone... refuse to subscribe to the conflict theory for the operation of this authority... departmentalism, secrecy and point-scoring are out, co-operation is in... question and challenge situations where aggressive and paranoid behaviour is allowed to dominate... What is more it comes up with a bill of rights: "The right to be treated with respect, the right to make mistakes, the right to choose not to assert yourself, the right to ask for what you want, the right to say No without feeling guilty." This masterpiece is the product of an open meeting held this year.

Matcho

Mick McGahey, the NUM's chain-smoking vice-president, obviously has as scant regard for the TUC leadership as he does his own health. At a TUC committee meeting recently, McGahey, who suffers from chronic chest problems, wheezed: "It's a sign of the times — ashtays, like leadership, are in short supply at Congress House these days."

Oscar for hire

Sound recordist Peter Handsford, whose work on *Out of Africa* landed Britain one of its handful of Oscars, tells me he has not worked on a feature film since finishing the Streep-Redford epic more than a year ago. Even when director Sydney Pollack recommended him to the producers, who was about to start filming Frederick Forsyth's *Fourth Protocol*, MacKenzie chose someone else. "I quite understand," says Handsford, who adds that it is a fallacy to think work pours in just because you win an Oscar. Union restrictions prevent technicians from working in most countries abroad and few films are being made in Britain. So what has he been doing? "Oh, a couple of television documentaries and a record of train sounds."

PHS

Teachers in England must be puzzled by the way that Scottish ministers can "find" the money to finance their colleagues' 15 per cent pay deal. Ratepayers south of the border were similarly surprised at the ease with which £38 million was "found" last spring in rate relief for Scots. To the Treasury at least the answer is simple, and disturbing.

Public expenditure last year was £2,210 per head in Scotland and £1,927 in Wales against £1,761 in England. In most of the big spending programmes — roads, hospitals, schools and housing — spending in Scotland is an average 30 per cent higher than in England. Housing takes 78 per cent more, education 36 per cent more, health 26 per cent more.

Why does Scotland do so well? The answer is neither English generosity nor Scottish ministerial advocacy but a Treasury mechanism, the "territorial block formula", applied to each territory (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) since 1980. Under this curious system public spending in each country is determined not according to need but by mathematical formulae giving Scotland 10/85, Wales 5/85 and Northern Ireland 2.75 per cent of the English total.

The results five years on are startling. Security costs make comparison difficult for Northern Ireland. But in Scotland and Wales, there is now over-provision amounting to well over

Give England a fair deal for a change

by Michael Fallon

£1 billion a year which could not be justified under normal public spending rules. The territorial block formula is the cause of the trouble.

For a start, the formula appears to apply automatically. If additional provision, for example on roads or libraries, is decided for England, the Scottish and Welsh blocks benefit accordingly — whether or not new roads or libraries are actually required in Scotland and Wales. Worse still, the respective Secretaries of State can happily switch funds from one block to another: thus money theoretically allocated for Scottish prisons can end up being spent on Scottish hospitals instead.

Does this matter? I think it does. First, overall control of public spending is threatened by a system that builds in over-provision each year. As the government struggles to hold expenditure

broadly flat, each year's public spending bargaining round will become increasingly difficult: unjustified spending will make it even more so.

Secondly, England suffers. In particular, the formula discriminates against the less prosperous English regions. Without any regional analysis of public spending, the difference is hard to quantify. But regions such as the North West and North East, with structural and social problems similar to those of Scotland, lose out directly in per capita terms to their neighbours across the border.

Thirdly, there is little reason to exempt either Scotland or Wales from the current pressures on public spending. When other programmes are being restrained or cut back, it would be unfair not to look to Scotland and Wales for some contribution. Nor can Scotland in particular be regarded any

longer as one of Britain's poorer regions: measured on GDP per capita it ranks third, after only the South East and East Anglia. Indeed, suspending the formula in some areas (such as council housing) might compel Scottish Office ministers to pursue even more vigorously the policies that have extended ownership in England.

Finally, unless the entire territorial block formula system is recast, both the over-provision and discrimination will increase. The longer that action is postponed, the more difficult it will be politically for the Treasury to reassert its control over Scottish Office spending. And as the discrimination against the English regions becomes more severe, the government will face further pressure for devolution and separate development agencies from hard-pressed areas like such as the North East, the North West and the South West.

A review of both the mechanism and its effects is therefore long overdue. The arrival of funds approved by the US Congress will in any case complicate Northern Ireland spending. Separate studies ought now to be put in hand to determine real need in each territory and to equalize Whitehall's subsidies towards the main programme areas. Pending their conclusions the working of the formula should be suspended on all block programmes.

The author is Conservative MP for Darlington.

Richard Ford examines the strains imposed by Portadown

Loyal or loyalist? The great RUC challenge

Belfast. Last weekend, as Northern Ireland's traditional marching season began, men of the Royal Ulster Constabulary were hoping that the parades would not herald the onset of a turbulent summer. But on Sunday they faced vicious rioting after a loyalist Apprentice Boys' parade was banned in Portadown, a town that has been described as the "Vatican of Orangeism".

Afterwards, the gun shots that blasted the window of a police reservist's home in north Belfast and the petrol bomb attacks on the homes of two officers in the Shankill Road showed what loyalists mean when they scream at the RUC. "Your day of reckoning is coming".

Policing loyalist protests against the Anglo-Irish Hillsborough agreement while at the same time combating IRA terrorism is the stiffest test the RUC has faced in its history. Many of its members may have private doubts about Hillsborough, but in public they display contempt, in unprintable language, for the loyalists who bombard them with paving stones, bricks and bottles.

The violence is venomous. Policemen have had 30 pieces of silver hurled at them. There has been talk of "bits in plastic bags", a reference to the method used to collect the bodies of victims of terrorist activity. Some RUC men have been reminded that the crowds on the street know exactly where they live.

But the rioting in Portadown last Sunday had its origins not only in the loyalist opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement but also in memories of last year's marching season. In 1985 there were 1,897 loyalist marches and 223 republican. There was also a long-running controversy over "provocative" marches through certain Roman Catholic areas



Belfast, December 1985: RUC men retreat from a loyalist demonstration of protest against the Hillsborough agreement — a forerunner of this week's violence

which the authorities deliberately brought to a head, to the dismay of hardline loyalists. Although only two loyalist parades were banned and 13 re-routed, the suspicion that Dublin's hand was behind the action enraged Unionists and led to rioting and intimidation of police officers.

This year the Orange institutions threatened to defy any attempt by the RUC to alter traditional routes, believing that the police were acting at the behest of the southern authorities. Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC, has denied this and suggests that an independent tribunal should decide on re-routing. He has also criticized parade organizers for insisting on marching through areas where, because of population shifts, they are no longer welcome.

It is not only the steadfastness of the RUC in policing the loyalist population that will be tested this summer but also the policy of "police primacy". This is the policy, introduced in 1976, which gave the RUC responsibility for enforcing law and order, with the army being used only in support.

Putting police in the front line of the battle against terrorism has had two effects. It has meant that Irishmen are increasingly killing

Irishmen. It has also meant that the once steady stream of soldiers' coffins returning to the mainland has almost ceased, effectively neutralizing the "troops out" movement in Britain.

Police primacy has also resulted in a huge expansion in the size of the RUC, which now has 8,249 full-time officers and a reserve of 4,508. Despite the dangers, it remains one of the more attractive employment prospects, especially for Protestants, in a country where the opportunities for steady, well-paid work have diminished. An RUC constable can earn up to £12,033 a year, with an inspector's pay rising to £14,991, plus rent and special duty allowances. But the very desirability of serving in the RUC has brought its own problems. With so many young and educated constables in the force, there may well be a frustrating lack of promotion opportunities in the future.

But, above all, it is the Hillsborough agreement that provides the sternest test of the RUC. Ninety per cent of its men are Protestant and live in predominantly loyalist areas. Inevitably, personal hostility and concern surrounds an agreement which gives Dublin a consultative role in the affairs of the North.

Michael Hornsby previews a meeting that could change the face of South Africa

Talking about tolerance

Natal Provincial Council, its white counterpart, would be equally represented on the JEA, the chairmanship of which would rotate between Buthelesi and Cadman. Pretoria seems likely to agree to this stage of the proposal, even though it has still to be explained how Natal's large Indian community would be accommodated within this system.

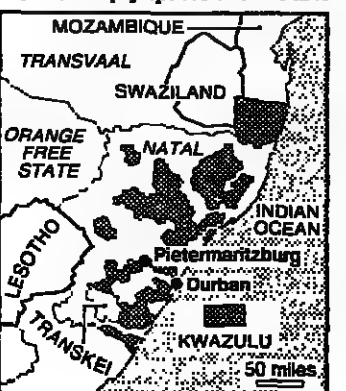
Much more far-reaching is the second phase, which envisages the creation of a joint legislative body in which, presumably, blacks — given their numerical predominance — would be in the majority, whatever constitutional safeguards might be devised for minority groups. The precedent this would set is much harder for Pretoria to swallow.

There can be no doubt that a unified Natal, which possesses in Durban the biggest industrial complex outside the Johannesburg-Pretoria region, would provide a more credible power base for Buthelesi than the more than 40 impoverished and mainly rural fragments of territory scattered throughout the province that collectively constitute KwaZulu. The threat is recognized by radical black opposition groups such as the United Democratic Front and its affiliate in the province, the Natal Indian Congress, which have turned down invitations to attend the conference. The outlawed African

National Congress has denounced it as "a divisive gathering" designed "to fragment our already banastanated country".

The Durban initiative is regarded with no less suspicion by the extreme right-wing Conservative and Herstige Nationale white parties, which have also declined to attend. Right-wing members of the Natal Provincial Council have formed a group called Action White Natal to oppose the project.

Natal has always been the odd man out of South Africa's four provinces. Physically, with its green rolling hills, sugar plantations (on which Indians were imported to work in the 19th century) and sub-tropical coastline, it is strikingly different from the vast empty spaces of semi-arid



grassland that occupy most of the interior plateau. The provincial capital, Pietermaritzburg, is named after two early Boer voortrekkers, Piet Retief and Gert Maritz, but the Boer Republic of Natal lasted only four years before it came under British rule in 1843. Natal's white population, which in mid-1983 numbered 586,018, is almost entirely English-speaking and voted heavily against severing links with the British Crown in 1960. Natal's other inhabitants consist of 5,232,135 blacks, overwhelmingly Zulus, 706,691 Indians and 95,479 of the mixed-race people defined as coloureds. They constitute 21.2 per cent of South Africa's population, but are crammed into only 7.7 per cent of its land area.

The density of the population, particularly in the vast urban sprawl of Durban, has created a racial jigsaw of immense complexity which has always made nonsense of the neat boundaries drawn on apartheid maps by the social engineers in Pretoria. By attending the Durban "indaba", Botha's government is at last coming to terms with that reality.

With no significant white political following at risk in Natal, Pretoria arguably has nothing to lose by using the province as a laboratory for constitutional experimentation. One of the more enlightened cabinet ministers recently conceded that spurning the "Natal option" when it was first proposed was one of the most serious mistakes the government had made.

Three years ago a positive response by Pretoria would have been seen as a generous concession from a position of strength — today as a *volte-face* under pressure. Radical black opposition will also be stronger, increasing the danger of open war between Buthelesi's conservative Inkatha movement and the UDF, together with the ANC.

Ronald Butt

Passion and principle

The idea of loyalty to a political party moves Michael Foot to a kind of intellectual ecstasy. To him, loyalty means more than the obligation of a politician who dissects from his party on particular issues to remain loyal so long as he subscribes to its basic aims; he seems to believe, rather, that a politician should never go into opposition against his party however much it ceases to represent the things for which he joined it.

His latest book of essays (most of them already published elsewhere) is both a hymn in praise of such loyalists and an anathema (qualified in some favoured cases, such as Lloyd George) upon those he sees as traitors. If they desert their party it must be because they have their eye "fixed on the main chance" — which is the way he sees David Owen.

With pained incomprehension, Foot observes that simply to mention party politics can unleash "floods of hypocrisy and absurdity" and he asks how to explain the "populist sophistry" by which party politics are dismissed as a "dirty game". He rightly observes that for three centuries party politics has provided the distinctive flavour and vitality of British freedom. But with astonishing sleight of logic, he goes on to ask rhetorically: "Without the loyalists, even the ultrasurvivors; how would the parties survive?" As though the survival of party politics as a system depended on the ability of "loyalists" to keep the existing parties in being.

On that analysis, the old Liberal Party should never have split and declined, making way for Labour. Nor should the Tories have split over the Corn Laws. The truth is that parties wax and wane, some dying, some altering their shape, according to changing needs. To an honest mind, all political loyalty must be ultimately conditional: a politician can stay with a party through a certain amount of disagreement on subsidiary questions but when he can no longer subscribe to its basic principles it is time to go.

Foot also feels anger towards those social democratic politicians such as Hugh Gaitskill (though he at least is accorded the virtues of courage and honesty) who, instead of deserting, stay and seek to guide Labour "into alien channels" — in other words away from Foot's immutable fundamentalism.

Another target is Tony Benn, the boat-rocker of the left. Foot's account of Benn's transformation after 1979 from a moderate into the extremist who used the party conference to downgrade the positions of the parliamentary party and of the leader are essays in insider observation which a moderate could hardly better.

Foot sees Benn's problem as "more psycho-analytical than political" and his venomous attack on Benn for turning against the government, of which both had been members, accurately describes Benn's techniques of exploiting the caucus — though that was nothing new within the Labour Party. But Foot's rage against Benn for refusing to compromise over his party's democracy socialism exposes the dilemma of all politicians who wish to work within the parliamentary system but also want a new social and political order

whose logic is a party democracy which is inimicable to parliament. Writing of Benn's discovery of Marxism after 1979, Foot observes: "Marxism is a thrilling creed, and one which can open our eyes and ears to the excitement and glory of working-class history." He finds it as hard as ever to see any enemies on the left. More than once he pays his own tribute to Marx and even to the prophet's disciples who wrought the Russian Revolution. He attacks what he calls the "bastard Marxism or Trotskyism" which spreads the doctrine that since all capitalist governments are by definition repressive, any form of resistance is legitimate. But he continues: "Neither Karl Marx nor Leon Trotsky, we must hastily add, ever said anything quite so demonstrably and dangerously foolish." But did not Marx argue that it would be necessary to repeat 1793, the apex year of revolution? Did not Trotsky advocate permanent revolution and his colleague Lenin openly proclaim the red terror as the way to working-class freedom?

Since Foot is a parliamentarian he would have none of all this. But like many on the legitimate left he has been happy to rise in his party by playing with fire, he condemns the blatant Trotskyists but says nothing about the hidden Leninists who are more frightening because more efficient. Indeed, even his attitude to the Leninists of Moscow is significantly revealed in the final words of his essay on Churchill where he condemns the "most-wrong" about the Soviet Union which he himself (Churchill) had done so much to inflame.

Foot's thinking is of interest because he embodies the paradox at the heart of the Labour Party from which Owen and friends had to get away because no satisfactory resolution was possible. His attack on Owen, who decided to "kick away the ladder which had lifted him to eminence", is personal and bitter. It does not even scruple to imply comparison with Oswald Mosley's departure from Labour — somewhat to Mosley's advantage since he at least (Foot observes) had reason to be impatient with Labour's "pusillanimity" over unemployment. But only a few years later, says Foot pointedly, Mosley's reckless ambition was unmasked.

Yet the only "fact" that Foot can marshal against Owen is that he published a book which he had already prepared while in the Labour Party to describe what he thought socialism should mean, making appropriate changes from "socialism" to "social democracy". But what does that signify other than that Owen had decided to call the same thing by another name since his old party would have none of it? Are Roy Jenkins and the rest of the SDP traitors too?

Since Foot's kind of socialism always has more sentiment than charity we should not be shocked. We should rather welcome the reminder of how ill-fitted Labour still is to govern, and how right the Social Democrats were to make honest men and women of themselves by leaving it.

Loyalists and Lovers (Collins, £15).

moreover... Miles Kington

Delayed action packed

We interrupt this page to bring you a British Telecom announcement: Hello. Have you got one of those new phones where you don't dial, you simply press buttons? Better still, have you got one of those really new phones where you don't even press buttons, you just use the memory to get the number for you? Fun, isn't it? And yes, so simple.

But you've probably noticed one rather odd thing: however quickly you press the buttons, it still takes as long as ever for the number at the other end to ring. So after you've done your button-work, you have to wait for 20 or 30 seconds while nothing happens. And that takes time: about 20 or 30 seconds, in fact.

We'd be the first to admit that this can be annoying, especially if at the end of all those seconds you get a wrong number or a high-pitched whining noise. None of us likes sitting placidly for 20 or 30 seconds when we could be doing something better. So that's why, instead of speeding up the dialling system, we've produced a little booklet called *You Could Be Doing Something Better*.

Yes, we've actually dreamed up a whole host of ideas for ways to fill in that time to your advantage! But don't take our word for it — listen to some of today's people who are using that wait in their own particular way...

Sir Boris Treflort, top civil servant: "I am learning Spanish. While I am waiting for a number to ring, I find I can learn several words at a time — and believe me, with the number of phone calls I have to make, that's a lot of vocabulary! The only snag is that when the number finally rings and is answered, I tend to start talking in Spanish. Mucho comico, no?"

Justin Casteloupe, Young Stockbroker of the Year: "The speed I work at, I simply can't afford to

wait for 20 or 30 seconds doing nothing. While I am waiting for the number to ring, I make another phone call."

Wilson Corona, Formula 1 racing driver: "Most Grand Prix cars are now equipped with phones, so during a race I often call up my fellow drivers to annoy them. Sometimes I pretend I'm a wrong number, or perhaps I exaggerate their driving — then I hate that! When I'm waiting for the number to ring I like to wave the receiver at the driver next to me and shout: 'It's for you!' We need more humour in motor racing."

These are just some of the many ideas contained in our new booklet, along with knitting, playing the piano, yoga and Look-Like-Sylvester-Stallone exercises. But Wilson Corona's comments bring us to a very serious subject: telephoning while driving a car. More and more of us have a phone in our car, which can lead to dangerous driving and accidents, and that can only bring British Telecom into disrepute. So for heaven's sake, try to obey the following simple rules about phoning "n" driving.

- Dial only at a red light.
- Never answer the phone on a hairpin bend.
- Do not feed the phone cord through the steering wheel.
- Do not gesticulate in a French, least of all Italian, manner.
- Turn off your car stereo while phoning.
- Never use two phones at the same time.
- Leave your phone concealed while your car is parked. Otherwise the car may be vandalized by passers-by, and there is nothing worse than coming back to find a car full of empty cider bottles and graffiti reading "Rita, Lovely Model — 246 8091".
- If you are involved in a final crash while phoning, do replace the receiver before going unconscious. Otherwise your call will be very expensive.

A British Telecom announcement.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

WHAT OIL CRISIS?

When the world was told in the seventies — by the Club of Rome, President Carter's Commission on global problems and assorted doom-mongers — that the energy crisis was a permanent feature of our lives, it occurred to few people that the crisis in question might one day consist of falling oil prices and a world glut. Had they been so informed, they would have wondered in what sense these developments constituted a crisis rather than a benefit.

It is understandable that the finance ministers of oil-producing countries should speak in crisis terms. They are watching their revenues and investment projects shrink hourly. But when the United States Vice-President George Bush compares free-falling oil prices to a parachute minus his parachute, the economics of oil plenty evidently need spelling out.

What is happening today is the reversal of the two oil shocks of the seventies. Since they produced world inflation, severe recession and a transfer of wealth to a small number of oil-producing countries, reversing them would seem to be in the general interest. Which is, indeed, the case. Lower oil prices will mean lower industrial costs, higher world economic growth, and less inflationary pressure. It is a shot of adrenaline for the world economy.

There are, of course, losers. But except for a few cases of countries and companies whose income is derived overwhelmingly from oil, even losers gain on the roundabouts some of what they lose on the swings.

Mexico is an interesting example. It is an oil-producing country which planned large investment projects on great oil expectations. It now faces huge debt repayment problems

(which, nonetheless, the international banking community has so far managed to juggle successfully.)

Yet the Mexican economy is more diversified than the economies of Gulf producers. It can therefore hope to enjoy some offsetting benefits from the falling dollar, lower interest rates and more rapid growth of the American economy next door.

The Gulf producers, on the other hand, can react to declining oil revenues by cutting back on civil investment projects which are ambitious rather than strictly necessary. They may dislike that — but doubtless Pharaoh disliked cutting down on pyramids in lean years.

That leaves a few countries — of which Nigeria is the most obvious example — which combine little industrial diversification, collapsing oil revenues and, major, state-financed capital projects. Their plight is real, but self-inflicted. Though world financial institutions will doubtless provide short-term adjustment assistance, it must be on the understanding that long-term retrenchment is unavoidable.

Both Mexico and Nigeria will, of course, pose a problem for those American banks. Their loan security has suddenly shrunk. Nonetheless, the long-advertised debt crisis is unlikely to explode. Most developing countries, with outstanding debts are not oil producers. They benefit from the oil price collapse.

And one little-noticed benefit of cheap oil is that Iran and Iraq will find the snags of war increasingly expensive.

In Britain, oil and oil-related industries account for six per cent of gross national product. Unless tails wag dogs, the depressed outlook for that six per cent is more than offset by the boost that lower energy

prices will give to the other 94 per cent.

That would be so if the UK economy were a closed unit. It is doubly true of a trading economy which benefits from increased economic activity in the world economy in which about two-thirds of trade is carried on between OECD countries.

Only two real losers spoil the outlook for Britain — companies with heavy investment in marginal North Sea oilfields, where the cost of production now outweighs the revenue, and the Treasury. The companies have little choice but to accommodate to the new economic reality by writing down their assets, cutting dividends, and curbing their plans for exploration. Talk that is what risk capital is all about.

But the Treasury, though facing a major revenue loss, has some room for manoeuvre. There will be an unquantifiable, offsetting revenue increase from the higher profits of non-oil companies. Until this year, moreover, the Treasury had underestimated North Sea oil revenues with suspicious consistency. And finally the British government is running one of the lowest deficits in the industrialised world.

It is this relatively prudent fiscal stance which helps to explain why the Pound and the Stock Market have both performed steadily in the face of an oil price fall which forecasters a year ago would have expected to be accompanied by chaotic trading in both. It would be a bold forecast now who would predict that, despite the expected revenue loss, the Chancellor will not find it politically possible to cut taxes next year.

And there is one little-noticed domestic benefit of the oil price fall. Governments need never fear Arthur Scargill again.

FREEDOM TO WORK

The government's decision to allow women to retire at the same age as men is a welcome recognition of the realities of late twentieth century Britain. The only cause for regret is that such an eminently sensible decision was not of the government's own making but had to be forced on it by the European Court.

Britain has one of the highest proportions of working women in Europe. That proportion is increasing and there is every sign that it will continue to do so, not so much because women have to work out of economic necessity (though many do), but because they want to. The arguments for work in general — that it endows the worker with a sense of dignity and purpose, and gives companionship and diversion — are no less valid for women than they are for men. This point is sometimes drowned in the volume of complaints (not from men alone) to the effect that women have increasingly been entering jobs traditionally regarded as male preserves.

At the same time, the rationale behind the old arrangement, which provided for a five-year gap between retirement ages on the grounds that women were on average five years younger than their hus-

bands, is out of date. It is also contradicted by the fact that women, in Britain as elsewhere, live longer than men. If this fact were taken to its logical conclusion, the existing differential in retirement ages would have to be reversed.

The reluctance of any British government hitherto, Labour or Conservative, to go even half way towards recognizing these realities derives largely from the estimated cost. Current calculations suggest that retirement would have to be fixed at just over 64 if men and women were to retire and collect their pensions at the same time with no extra cost to the Exchequer. It is presumably on the basis of these figures that the government has chosen to allow women to retire later, while leaving the five-year differential in pensionable ages unchanged.

This compromise decision is bound to lead to objections. Some will be from men, of all ages, concerned that their traditional advantages to employers — among them the extra years they work towards their pensions — will be eroded further than they already have been by equal rights legislation. Others will be from women looking forward to

their earlier retirement as a release from drudgery, who will see the decision as a first step towards a later retirement age for women across the board. Yet others will be from those — of both sexes — who hoped for equality in the pensionable age. This last is the only valid objection.

If women want equal status at work, and there is every sign that they do, then retirement, like everything else, must be on equal terms. But this does not preclude a degree of flexibility. For everyone, man or woman, who is able and willing to work past the age of 60, there are others for whom retirement cannot come soon enough. Some have wearied of their jobs, others are in failing health, others without paid employment would welcome the chance to exchange their unemployed status for that of pensioner.

It is for this reason that the government's decision to allow women to continue working until 65 can only be a first stage. The discriminatory provision which allows women to collect their state pension at 60, while men have to wait another five years, must be phased out and replaced by a flexible retirement age applicable to men and women alike. That is the next barricade.

THE FALKLANDS FUTURE

Senor Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the United Nations is due in Buenos Aires today for talks with the Argentine government — which is expected to press its case for negotiations with Britain over sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. But neither is likely to work out a formula which will settle that vexed issue. Four years after Argentine forces invaded the islands, 94.5 per cent of the people who live there have just said that they want to stay British.

The results of the unofficial referendum which was carried out for the UK Falkland Islands Committee, have hardly come as a surprise. It would have had more value had it allowed the islanders a second option. Assuming that their first choice was continuing British sovereignty, what would be their second? Would it be some leaseback arrangement? Or administration under the trusteeship of the United Nations? As first choices these were decisively rejected and it is easy to

understand why they were not presented in any other way. But to do so would have made the exercise more worthwhile.

As it is the results only underline the difficulty of the British position. In the Falklands there is a majority whose commitment to the Crown is absolute. Any alternative would be carried through against the wishes of the people who live there.

There are wider issues affecting Britain and its 56m people. But four years is a short time in international politics — especially after a war in which so many died. Such arguments are for tomorrow not today — and the Argentine government must understand that this is so.

The difficulty President Alfonsín has over accepting the long-standing British invitation to normalise relations on related issues, suggests that he understands it only too well. Argentina has never accepted the British offer to repatriate its war dead or to allow next-of-kin to visit their Falklands graves. It is unwilling

to discuss the reopening of air links with this country — or to allow British goods to be imported.

It has not even taken advantage of the announcement by Whitehall last Summer that Argentine imports would once more be permitted to enter Britain. Argentine exports to this country totalled £2m worth last year — slightly up on the £150,000 or so of the previous two or three years but hardly to be compared with the £125m which they were earning before the war.

Whatever President Alfonsín does, it would probably not alter very radically the findings of this latest "referendum". But a renewal of diplomatic and commercial contact between the two countries would do more than merely bring economic benefits. The time for sovereignty to be written into the agenda for Anglo-Argentine negotiations may not be yet. But if it is ever going to dawn it is more likely to do so in a climate of better relations.

Getting Land Rovers on the road

From Mr R. M. H. Duncan
Sir, As a director of a multinational company's subsidiary in Nigeria I control a small fleet of vehicles, including a dozen with four-wheel drive, and have always had the greatest admiration for the design concept of Land Rover and Range Rover. However, the design detail and quality control in manufacture is very poor.

I purchased one of the first Range Rovers exported to Malawi. Within weeks, a number of faults developed, showing that the detail design was inadequate for prolonged use on poor roads. These faults were common to all Range Rovers in Malawi at that time.

In Nigeria, my company initially purchased Land Rovers. However, in 1982, we started buying Nissan Patrols because they were more reliable, more comfortable and cheaper. Due to import restrictions we were forced back to Land Rovers last year.

Of the five Land Rovers purchased (all the new 110 series) two are off the road permanently, due to assembly faults and a complete lack of spares. We purchased a Range Rover three months ago which was delivered with a host of assembly faults and has developed even more. Although these vehicles were assembled in Nigeria by Leyland Nigeria Limited, we have also purchased large numbers of Peugeot cars and light trucks which are extremely reliable.

Land Rover and Range Rover are in dire need of new management to improve their design and quality control. The alternative is to see them lose, totally, their already diminishing market share to the aggressive and efficient Japanese. In that contest it is worth the debate as to who owns the companies?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD DUNCAN,
PO Box 413,
Zaria,
Nigeria.
March 23.

From Mr Noel Falconer
Sir, The situation at Leyland

Vehicles is desperate and requires urgent action. That at Land Rover is not. There is time for a proper privatization, that very many employees and shareholders and plain British citizens would welcome. This must be attempted, if LR is not essential to the disposal of LV.

There is no case whatsoever for panic-selling LR to the corporate executive who heads the failed LV — and who absents himself from his desk at this critical point in its history! — and to four managers, and nobody else from the firm.

This is not an employee takeover that might deserve favoured treatment; indeed such treatment would appear to constitute an "abuse of the minority" that could be blocked legally.

Yours sincerely,
NOEL FALCONER,
223 Bramhall Moor Lane,
Hazel Grove,
Stockport,
Cheshire.
March 26.

Attitudes to US

From Mr Kenneth J. Moss
Sir, Surely Messrs Sheehy, Durham and Walters (March 28) misunderstand the source of the general unease about increasing US investment in the UK. Few people doubt the advantages they point out; few people have unfriendly feelings towards the United States.

Nevertheless, it cannot be wise for any country to allow another one to have too large an interest in its economy. To do so is to open the door to pressures that may not always be welcome, as the investing country seeks — reasonably enough — to protect its own interests.

Indeed, the friendlier the investing country, the harder it may be to resist such pressure. The wise man avoids becoming too much beholden to his friend.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH J. MOSS,
8 Gilman Road,
Norwich,
Norfolk.
March 28.

Signals to the East

From Sir John Lawrence
Sir, I am glad to see from Mary Dejevsky's article on the BBC's Russian services (March 27) that lively argument about the purpose and scope of these valuable broadcasts continues. But may the argument come once more to the conclusion that the purpose of the service is "to provide truthful information to people who would otherwise go without" and that this service, being one of the best investments HMG has made in the last 40 years, should continue to be financed by a Foreign Office grant.

The argument goes on forever, and quite right too, but the right conclusion is what it has always been. More than 40 years ago, I was European Intelligence Officer and later European Services Officer for the BBC. In the days of the phoney war we used to get letters protesting against the quiet, objective and (as some thought) dull tone of the BBC's news.

Why couldn't we be like the

Americans and put more pep into it? But when the real war started the calm tone and unswerving objectivity of the BBC brought a rich and lasting reward. Never mind if Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America are winning more of the youthful listeners at the present time.

Let us be content with our present estimated fourteen million listeners in the Soviet Union and our by now legendary reputation as the only completely reliable source of news.

I have only one suggestion to make. We ought not to broadcast in Russian alone but also in other major languages of the Soviet Union. The Government would have to increase its grant to the BBC but the sums involved are not large and the returns in goodwill would be enormous if past experience is anything to go on.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LAWRENCE,
24 St Leonard's Terrace, SW3.
March 27.

'Degree days'

From Professor Thomas A. Markus
Sir, Recent debates about climate and heating allowances have highlighted the irrationality of the present system. The Department of Geography at Lancaster University (March 5) rightly points out that all the data for rational allocation of fuel subsidies are readily available.

But Kenneth Hutchinson's retrograde proposal (March 5) to reintroduce "degree days" in place of the year's attempts by DHSS staff to guess subjectively the severity of the weather, would put the clock back to an almost equally unsatisfactory earlier system. "Degree days" assume that climatic severity is only determined by temperature. But a much better "climatic severity index" (CSI) is now available — developed by this department with Scottish Development Department funding.

The CSI additionally takes into account sunshine availability and wind, which significantly affect fuel consumption. The CSI shows

that regional variations are even larger than those indicated by "degree days". If Kew is given an index of 100, on "degree days" Eskdalemuir is 130 and Loughswilly 145. But using CSI they become 163 and 169 respectively. In other words, a Highlands house uses 69 per cent more fuel a year to maintain identical conditions to those in an identical house in London.

But any system which bases severe weather allowances on the average weather in a region — whether assessed subjectively, by "degree days" or by CSI — is totally absurd and unjust. Thus a London claimant receives extra money for weather which is "average" in Aberdeen, where it attracts no extra over a basic, uniform, national rate which assumes that climate does not affect one's fuel bill.

Yours sincerely,
THOMAS A. MARKUS,
University of Strathclyde,
Department of Architecture and Building Science,
131 Rottenrow,
Glasgow,
Glasgow 23.

Price of petrol

From Mr John Tearle
Sir, Having disposed of a majority holding in British Petroleum, in the interests of a wider share-owning democracy, it ill behoves the Government to lecture the oil companies on their obligations to the public interest.

Any enlightened company director when considering pricing policy will take into account the interests of his shareholders, his employees and his customers, as well as those of the wider public; and the Chancellor must not complain if the directors of BP, in reacting to his Budget, choose to give greatest weight to the interests of the shareholders who elected them.

The Prime Minister urges all of us, as customers, to shop around for petrol. Has she forgotten that, thanks to her, we are all shareholders now, and may actually benefit from higher prices at the pump?

Yours truly,
JOHN TEARLE,
Farnside,
Farnside Copse,
Berkhamstead,
Hampshire.
March 22.

The 'workers'

From Mr D. H. Hackel
Sir, I disagree with Dr Doig (March 24). There is nothing emotive or divisive about the term employers and employees. It is, as it should be, impersonal, and its usage is clear and accepted.

The "secret" of German economic success is not to be sought in semantics. The German *Arbeitgeber*, with a little help from the State, invested. Welfare for the *Arbeitnehmer*, with a little push from the State, followed.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. HACKEL,
7 Raby Place,
Bath.
Avon.

From Margaret Marchioness of Aberdeen
Sir, Many years ago my husband was chairman of a steel works in Sheffield. He had no difficulty in finding the right word to include managers and workers — he always said "we".

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET ABERDEEN,
Sycamore Cottage,
Forest Row,
Sussex.
March 28.

Ignoble effects of noble art

From Dr Helen C. Grant
Sir, Your second leader in the issue of March 25 is a good deed in a naughty world. Cerebral damage is caused by boxing because causing cerebral damage is the aim of the game. Your proposal to limit the sport to the age of consent is to be applauded as a first step in limiting the amount of cerebral damage.

I note with dismay, however, that the British Boxing Board of Control has succeeded in seducing you with their propaganda about the "medical precautions" they have introduced.

"Propaganda"? Yes, propaganda, because the Board is aware that they will find nothing in active professional boxers. That is why they carry out these "medical precautions" amid much publicity. The beginnings of damage to the brain can only be detected when a boxer dies unexpectedly early and his brain is carefully examined under the microscope (which is what I will be doing to Steve Watt's brain).

To quote yourself, Sir, "repeated blows to the head... produce cumulative and irreversible brain damage." Quite; and some years will elapse before the millions of destroyed nerve cells are replaced by scar tissue. Only then will the shivelled brain be demonstrated by "investigations." Then it is too late: the victim is doomed.

Now, after another well-publicised death due to boxing trauma, we hear the rational lamentations about some sports being dangerous. Boxing is not just a dangerous sport. To quote you, Sir, once more: "causing hurt and injury to an opponent is the very aim of the sport."

Furthermore, this aim is cerebral injury so that madness is the result. For each of the 300-odd dramatic boxing deaths recorded world-wide since the last war there are unrecorded numbers of punch-drunk dements who creep away into mental institutions. The outside world only gets to know about the occasional famous one.

Yours faithfully,
H. C. GRANT,
10 Antrim Grove, NW3.
March 26.

From Mr R. A. B. Gowlland
Sir, There is much in your leader on boxing with which any fair-minded supporter of the sport must agree. However, most of your strictures apply to professional boxing, amateur boxing, as enjoyed in many voluntary youth clubs throughout the country, is very different in both purpose and effect.

In amateur boxing, the objective is not to hurt the other man. It is to score points. The one who does not get hit is the one who wins, and it is for this reason that the sport is known as "the noble art of self defence."

Most people who have worked in youth clubs will testify to the benefits of amateur boxing. It keeps the boys off the streets and provides an outlet in training and competition for their natural aggression. It teaches them sportsmanship, self discipline, pride in success, the joy of comradeship and a great deal of courage.

It is my experience that those boys who have been involved in amateur boxing at a youth club are the ones who support the clubs in later life, giving back of their time, energy and money to those clubs which supported and helped them when they were young. Are we to throw away these significant advantages which arise through amateur boxing because of the small risks, voluntarily accepted by those taking part, in the professional game?

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN GOWLLAND,
87 Jermyn Street, SW1,
March 27.

Ordination of women

From the Headmaster of Nottingham High School
Sir, As an historian I was once amused to find that a member of Charles II's Parliament had expressed the wish that Englishmen would "always worship in the way that Christ ordained", meaning by this that they would use the Prayer Book of 1662. As a member of the Anglican Communion I am less amused to find the Bishop of London perpetrating a similar absurdity.

Bishop Graham, in his letter of March 27, challenges the right of the Anglican Church to consecrate a woman bishop on the grounds that Article XXXIV allows change only to rites ordained by man's authority. Am I wrong in thinking that the rites of ordination at present used by the Church of England derive from Acts of Parliament of 1559 and 1662 and that they include significant differences from those used in earlier centuries?

If this is the case am I to conclude that the Almighty changed his mind about the constitution of our Church in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and that he did this not once but several times?

I have no doubt that God ordained that there should be a ministry but I believe he left it to his people to decide what form that ministry should take and to make changes when this became appropriate.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS WITCOMBE,
Nottingham High School,
Wolverley Mount,
Nottingham.
March 28.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 3 1964

A short extract from the last of three long articles on the Conservative Party (April 1, 2, 3). Their appearance created something of a sensation in political and social circles, and they elicited a voluminous and varied correspondence from readers. There was considerable speculation as to the identity of "A Conservative". At The Times his name was, indeed still, a secret, for only one person knew it, the then Editor, to whom anonymity was, and still is, sacrosanct.

A party in search of a pattern—3

The Field Where the Biggest Failures Lie

By A Conservative

The Conservative Party must therefore stand pat on the distinction between the areas where economic criteria apply and where therefore the principles of capitalism must reign, and the areas where other criteria than economic are accepted. Plain though this touchstone is, and vital to the party's coherence and good conscience, it is extraordinary how haphazardly and un-analytically Conservatives have applied it. It should enable them to take full account of the common purposes of society and of the charitable impulses — in the widest sense of the term — of society and its members. These are purposes and impulses which the Conservative Party, in opposition alike to utilitarians, to laissez-faire liberals, and to individualists, has always asserted and championed. The right of the state to act and to interfere on these grounds is one of the basic tenets of Conservatism.

POVERTY

The relief of poverty in cash or kind, money or bread, is the plainest object of the charitable impulse in individuals or societies. We are no longer accustomed in Britain to the use of such naked terminology — in other countries, even the United States, it is still permissible officially to mention poverty — but the concept affords the most convenient starting point for discussion. Fortunately it is unnecessary to define poverty except to say two things about its meaning in this context. First, it is the condition of a relatively small minority — the idea of poverty, as applied to a substantial proportion or even the majority of a community, is something quite different. Secondly, the "poverty line", wherever one chooses to draw it, moves upwards as the standards of life of the large majority rise. Hence the judgment may seem, it is in the relief of poverty that the biggest failures of Conservative policy in the past 12 years lie. Consequently it is there that some of the largest changes are called for.

Relief of poverty in kind, the wayfarer's dole at the monastery gate, belongs to a primitive society. In the modern world only cash is tolerable, for more reasons than one. It enables the adequacy of the benefit — the standard of living assumed — to be clearly seen and measured; it gives the recipient freedom and dignity, the power within limits to choose the composition of his living standard and not have it dictated for him by the donor; and as a consequence, it gains in the general mechanism of production to ensure that the demands of consumers generally, including the poor, are efficiently satisfied. The Conservatives set out boldly 12 years ago by commencing the food subsidies for selective cash benefits, and they have done several useful oddments since, like abolishing the tobacco concession and restoring all manner of essential in kind for "the old-age pensioner". But from the big challenges, pensions and housing, they have run away.

THE BOLD ACT

The Beveridge social security system of uniform benefits for all, inadequate in poverty but increasingly superfluous for others, as savings, personal and institutional, continue to grow, has been maintained and edged upwards just behind the national assistance standard (if rent is included), which remains the actual guarantee against poverty. Instead of meeting the challenge, successive Conservative governments, amid the growing restiveness of their supporters, have not only kept Beveridge intact but put on top of it a "graduated scheme", which will presently become unworkable as more and more stand to gain by contracting out. Now they find themselves confronted by the Labour Party's bid to nationalise private saving for security by a comprehensive scheme of "half-pay on retirement". The time has never seemed right for the bold act of stepping off the escalator and finding a way back to the purpose of guaranteeing, wherever necessary, a cash income generously adequate for the basic needs at current prices....

Elision course

From Mr Leslie Fielding
Sir, The elided English of some of today's newswriters takes a lot of swallowing. The Fry-Mister, the Chance-a-Chequer and the Brish-Gum surely deserve fuller mention. Is Co-Stree the coal industry or the Coldstream Guards?

If normal diction is not rapidly restored, we shall be even less understood by our Ewer-peer partners. (I write as what might be called a Loyal sized of the Nye-King of Gray-Brit-Nor-Nistic.)

LESLIE FIELDING,
Rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels,
Belgium.

THE ARTS

Television
Malign
legacy of
the great
powers

Since 1945 some 30 million people — the majority civilians — have died in more than 100 wars. Heard on the radio, read in a book or newspaper, this statistic becomes ungraspably meaningless, a figure that can be swept under a great carpet of conscience. When it is brought subversively to life on screen, as it was in the first of David Mamo's two documentaries, the viewer finds himself falling through floors and ceilings in outrage and impotence.

The Four Horsemen (Central) dealt unflinchingly and unsentimentally with how the boardroom tensions between America and Russia are visited on the Third World and translated into civilian casualties. Stepping away from the vulgarities of John Edgar Wideman, who has made films on Cambodia and Vietnam, Mamo visited everywhere from Eritrea, where behind the veil of famine Africa's longest war is now conducted with Soviet napalm, to Vietnam, where children tend their cows step on some of the three million unexploded bombs, to El Salvador, where America is repeating her south-east Asian mistakes and sins.

At ground level, expertly filmed by Ivan Strassburg and Gerry Flanagan, certain images were made to smoulder in the mind like white phosphorus. In Beirut, the cry of an injured two-year-old girl over the eyesore of a bombed-out flat. At a school in Vietnam, terrible mutants played with toys, their mutations the result of Agent Orange. (One once is enough to kill London's population; the Americans dropped 240 lbs on Vietnam, destroying 50 per cent of its forests.) In Eritrea, a burnt woman had skin like a planet. Again and again Mamo was able to make us ask the question: What on earth are we doing to ourselves, and for what?

Q.E.D. (BBC1) dealt with people playing with fire in a much looser way. To conquer certain fears, a group of "Louders" exercised themselves in a "gripping" hypnosis. His "songs" were repeated phrases as banal as "I really dig to walk through fire", intoned a man who looked like a hairy skull. "Fire is fun for my feet." Urged to imagine the hot coals as "cool wet grass", the group chanted this phrase mindlessly — as if they had smoked the substance rather than walked on it.

Scientists who pulled up their trouser-legs and participated argued this was not a victory of mind over matter but a feat within anyone's power. Forcing everyone into the role of either-unbeliever or zombie, each party lost in its respective jargon. Stephen Rose's programme was watchable for the same reasons that it was meretricious.

A walk on a cold stretch of water would probably have benefited the lot of them.

Nicholas Shakespeare

● *The Gambler*, by Peter Brewis, Bob Coody and Mel Smith, is to be presented at Hampstead Theatre for six weeks from April 15 (with previews from April 10). It was first produced, by Hampstead Theatre, in 1980, when it played at the Bull and Gate.

The worldwide success of *A Dance to the Music of Time* has made Anthony Powell such a target for photographers that his growing fascination has led him to return the compliment, making one such central to his new novel, *The Fisher King*, published today: interview by Nicholas Shakespeare

The character of invention

There is a cab-driver in Seattle who keeps a complete set of *A Dance to the Music of Time* on his dashboard. He is not emulated by the man driving me from Westbury Station to The Clammy, who less slip he has read four of Anthony Powell's novels but stuck at *A Question of Upbringing*. "You wanted to know what was coming next", he says, turning into the drive of a house as classical as its owner. "But nothing happened." No, what he really enjoys reading are Powell's literary reviews.

"How frightfully funny", says the author, without smiling. He lies on an elegant Empire sofa, his legs stretched out, his hands stroking a ruffled Cornish cat, and his eyes straying, unbidden, to a wall furnished with 13 green volumes of *Burke's Complete Peerage*.

Here in this room overlooking Somerset, Powell and his wife Lady Violet have entertained a long and steady line of interviewers wishing to know who Widdowson really is, who Quiggin and Moreland and Mrs Erdleigh. And each time, as he restrains Trelawney the cat from eating the tea biscuits, Powell parries the questions with polite but unimpassioned exasperation.

"They think you just take a real person and record them as in a photograph. It's like the art exhibitions of my youth when people looked at the model in the paintings wanting only to know who she was, who she had slept with. They don't realize even the lowest novelist invents. In fact he probably finds it easier."

To this room, attempting a truthful record of their own, have also come "a terrific stream" of photographers and cameramen, fixing the lights, disturbing the furniture, upsetting the working day. All this activity and questioning has made Powell so interested in the position of the modern photographer that he has

made it the profession of his central character in *The Fisher King*, his first novel for three years and his second since completing *Dance* in 1975.

Powell, who as a young publisher worked on Cecil Beaton's first book, sets his tale on board a cruise around Britain. Told by a familiarly detached narrator — a popular novelist called Beale — it follows Beale's application of Arthurian legend to some fellow passengers; notably a hideously maimed photographer and his companion, a beautiful virgin.

"Since 1960, when I developed a frightful dislike of airports, I've been on an awful lot of cruises — but the thing about writing a novel is you do simply never know whether anything is going to be useful or not." Though well versed in the raw material, he has relied on his distasteful to supply him with details of disfigurement and disease, and his wife — who used to work as a fashion journalist on the *Evening Standard* — on how the characters should dress. A medley of sources provided him with the legend of the Fisher King, the knight maimed in battle whose castle rose from barren fields.

"I've often met people who've reminded me of the legend and felt 'Oh, he is the Fisher King'. I'm continually fascinated by the way everything has come down from myth, how we can see ourselves back to Roman times." It is allied to the famous fascination he feels for genealogy. ("I'll expect you to have brushed up on your pedigree," he had said on the telephone.) "I'm prepared to sit down and listen for hours to someone's family history. People get into a complete rage saying how snobbish this is. It is the extreme reverse. If you look back you see the fluidity of families. This is very much soft-pedalled by people who want to appear grand and suppress their less successful ancestors."

The social interconnections between a small group of downwardly mobile characters form the heart of any Powell novel. "Other writers have an enormously clear view about their writing. I've never managed to do that. After 80, how one does it, how it starts, why one does it, remain totally obscure. I have to see something in a haze in order to write about it." He puts his hands behind his neck and gazes again towards the *Complete Peerage*. "My job is to try and present a view of what human beings are like to me."

In doing so he has no idea of his audience. "But I'm staggered who they turn out to be. One man who runs a home for deprived Blacks in New York wrote to say how greatly they enjoyed having *Dance* read to them. I had several letters from a chap in a penitentiary in Virginia, though I slightly balked when he asked me to get in touch with his girlfriend in Chicago." Currently being translated into Finnish — and part of curricula in Egypt and Italy — *Dance* is also being adapted for television. "I would regard myself as a classical writer," he continues. "I write about how people behave." Which is how he explains a prize awarded last year by the Ingersoll Foundation "for upholding Judeo-Christian standards and the 10 commandments."

Lady Violet enters with a tea-tray. She has just been described as "shonk" in a Dutch magazine and has no idea what it means. "Did you ask if he uses a typewriter?" she enquires sweetly. Spotting the gingerbread, Trelawney arches his back on Anthony Powell's lap. "Darling," he says, "there's going to be a maid."

● *The Fisher King* is reviewed by James Fenton on page 11.



Photograph of Anthony Powell by Peter Trelawney

Galleries
Scandinavian symbolism

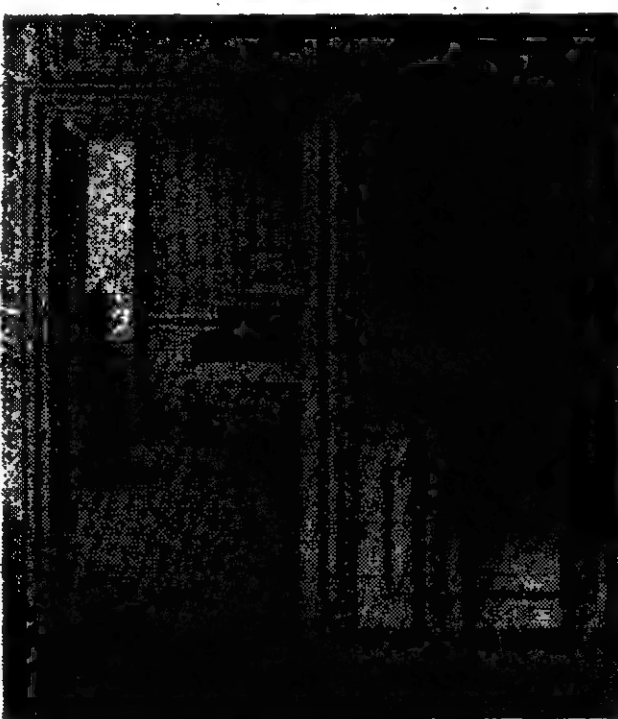
Northern Spirit
Connaught Brown

Danish Paintings
1880-1920
Bury Street Gallery

The big event of the London art summer promises to be the Arts Council's survey of Scandinavian painting at the turn of the century. *Debut of a Summer Night*, which comes to the Hayward in July. Meanwhile, it is very useful to have two forerunners of what is in store, in the shows Northern Spirit, at Connaught Brown, and Danish Paintings 1880-1920, at the Bury Street Gallery until April 20.

What we are talking about is basically painting of the Symbolist persuasion. But there were many different ways of approaching Symbolism practised in Scandinavia at the time — so much so that it becomes an atmosphere rather than a clearly distinguishable style. In Denmark, for instance, there were the group of painters centred on Skagen, Kroyer in particular, who specialized in rendering the elegant melancholy of a blue summer dusk along the beaches, and there were the intimists grouped around Hammershøi, a painter internationally recognized as such at the time but only now regaining that position in non-Danish estimation.

These latter figure strikingly in both shows. Hammershøi's brother-in-law listed and his lifelong friend Holboell both painted tranquil interiors with much of Hammershøi's hum-



View through doorway to a music room beyond by Wilhelm Hammershøi, only now regaining his international status

ming, hidden intensity, but with a subdued glow of blues and greens, and Axel Tørrisen's *Figures in a Land* under a burning, apocalyptic sky which indicates something of why he should have been a friend of Nolde. Sigge Jernmark's *Summer Evening in the Archipelago* is also fascinating, combining a composition reminiscent of Friedrich with colours looking sideways to the Fauves.

Such diverse comparisons indicate something of Scandinavian Symbolism's variety, but its coherence as an attitude to reality is much more striking, and suggests that this summer's show will be a real voyage of discovery into an alien but very attractive world.

John Russell
Taylor

Rock
Mathilde Santing
ICA

Returning to the ICA with a five-piece jazz band instead of a tape recorder to back her up, Mathilde Santing played a rather nervous first show of a short run that lasted until Saturday. Although her talent has been recognized for some years in her native Netherlands, it is only since the release last year of her album, *Water Under the Bridge* that she has begun to make inroads in Britain. But she is not an impatient woman, as the purposeful serenity of her performance showed. The band were marvellous: sympathetic, stylish and creative, they were careful idiosyncratic patterns in a manner that recalls Tom Waits's angular mode of arranging. The combination of Sebastian Kooftoven's violin and Simon Planting's double bass often created a mood of chamber music melancholy, while the two percussionists set up sprightly cross-rhythms.

Theatre
Three Sisters
Bloomsbury

Dead authors wrote for their own time and foreign authors write for their own people. The subtler a playwright the easier for other audiences to miss his point. A nice silver snuffbox seems, to us, a very decent present to give a 20-year-old Russian girl. Russians, apparently, know that this is a gift fit only for matrons and widows.

Chekhov makes a character remark three times, but apparently apropos of nothing, that Bazac was married in Berdichev. But Russians, it is said, regard this place as the pits, a

Russian Wigan. The author's implication being, one may presume, that even in the dearest spot (my apologies to readers in Wigan) happiness may blossom: a message lost on the three daughters of General Prozorov, longing to leave their provincial dump and return to paradisaical Moscow.

English directors have to make these points by other means. Which is why we are never likely to meet definitive productions of plays such as this. We can at best find approximations, some magnificent, others less so. The many nuances that do come across in translation can be variously handled; and even, in Mike Alfreds's touring production, at very considerable length.

The Bloomsbury stage is of considerable width and the cast sit at the sides between their appearances. For the first three acts they emerge out of the darkness on to the elegant set (designed by Paul Dart) where the black furniture leads us to expect some evening of scarcely relieved melancholy. But the director knows his author better than that, and throughout the evening encourages his cast to show us the laughable folly of these philosophizing soldiers and mismatched partners. A ripple of laughter greets Vershinin's "My wife has taken poison again" — and why not? Seldom has his or the Baron's chatter sounded more fatuous than here.

Another strength of the production is the counter-

pointing of what goes on downstage with the background comments, offstage music and a stove-pipe roaring like an avalanche. A musical top gives us a moment as fleetingly beautiful as the more celebrated breaking string in *The Cherry Orchard*.

Jeremy Kingston

Concert
RPO/Gibson
Festival Hall

The GLC has gone from the South Bank, and with it, or so it seemed on Tuesday night, the last vestiges of civilized concert-giving. The reward for being subjected to clumsy and churchward security searches, and

for fighting through layers of dirt and rubbish left by the contract cleaners of the new South Bank Centre, was a Tchaikovsky *Romance* and *Juillet* Overture of unusual lethargy. Sir Alexander Gibson came to some embarrassing late entries and spread chords. Although the strings of the Royal Philharmonic pulled themselves together in time for a finely-textured love theme, when the flute took over there was little attempt to place its solo in a changed context. Sir Alexander's thick conglomerate of themes drawn together so cunningly by Tchaikovsky in the development, pointed the repeated weakness of the evening: the lack of a selecting ear, and a baton unwilling to pose a new entry in a moment's silence or to anticipate the beginning of one phrase in the ending of another.

Not surprisingly, the second

movement of Dvořák's "New World" Symphony was the most distinguished. When the woodwind soloists, encouraged by the cor anglais lead, were given their head, a new liveliness of ensemble playing liberated the score. The concertante string postlude was a rare memorable moment in a performance which coasted along with little distinction other than its brusque climaxes which included some

notably coarse brass playing. At the centre of the evening stood Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto. Michael Roll was to have been the soloist but, as he had an accident at the weekend, Howard Shelley, the composer's worthy English champion, stepped in at the last moment. Mr Shelley's Rachmaninov is worthy not only in its scholarship but also in its sturdy, no-nonsense clarity. Never mind that his

octaves tended only to accelerate, rather than to broaden, or that his fortissimi existed for the sake of volume rather than depth of resonance. Shelley did, after all, have to urge on the orchestra somewhat strenuously: the style and sensitivity he brought to the performance was, given the circumstances, more than adequate.

Hilary Finch

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David Sinclair

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New US mobs rivalling Mafia

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Organized crime in America, though still dominated by the Mafia, is being transformed by particularly vicious new breeds of prison gangs, ethnic criminal societies, and at least four powerful motor cycle groups with chapters in Europe and Australia.

The phenomenon is described in the report of President Reagan's Commission on Organized Crime, which was set up in July 1983. It warns that the US must broaden its crime-fighting perspectives beyond the Mafia and realize that the problem is much more pervasive.

The report says that the newest development is the creation of self-perpetuating gangs in US prisons, with at least five groups meeting "the criteria of an organized crime group". They are named as the Mexican Mafia, La Nuestra Familia, the Aryan Brotherhood, the Black Guerrilla Family, and the Texas Syndicate.

"All five operated in more than one state," the report says. "In all five, either murder or the drawing of blood are prerequisites for membership."

Ethnic groups are also flourishing, including the Triads, Japanese "Yakuza" groups, Vietnamese gangs, Cuban criminal cartels, Colombian cocaine rings, remnants of old Irish gangs and even new Russian groups. The first Russian element was noted in 1975.

"There will be little lasting benefit in disabling La Cosa Nostra if other groups successfully claim its franchises," the Commission says.

The study estimates that organized crime reduces the gross national product by \$18.2 billion a year and reduces the annual income of every American by \$77. Total income from organized crime in 1986 is estimated between \$46 billion and \$65 billion.

The Commission calls for new efforts to deal with lawyers who co-operate with criminals, to include undercover techniques, including electronic surveillance.



Small beginnings: A silkworm moth that has hatched out of its cocoon. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Evolution of a silk royal wedding dress

One silkworm cocoon yields up to a mile of thread, but tens of thousands of cocoons such as the one above will be needed for Miss Sarah Ferguson's wedding dress when she marries Prince Andrew in July.

The cocoons, formed when the worm weaves the thread around its body to enter its pupal stage before turning into a moth, are being harvested at Lillingstone Silk Farm, Sherborne, Dorset.

Lillingstone is famed for producing thread for royal garments, including the wedding dresses of the Queen, Princess of Wales and Princess Margaret.

Three killed as blast rocks jet in mid-air

Continued from page 1

thought it was a bomb until we got off the plane. It just sounded like a hissing, strong, I thought, they can't have done any maintenance work."

TWA staff in Athens complained to reporters that it had taken half an hour to get ambulances to the airport, and an airport doctor said he had been inadequately briefed. "I had no idea what to expect. I was simply asked to bring one ambulance," Dr George Micholizis told Reuters.

Libyans shocked: The official "secretariat" of information

appeared genuinely shocked (Robert Fisk writes from Tripoli). "Was anyone killed?" he asked. When I told him that three people had been killed from the jet he put his hand to his forehead and said: "Jesus Christ."

Other reactions were less sympathetic. At the Libyan news agency Jana, an official said he knew no more than he had read on news agency reports. "Why should we be involved?" he asked. "It's not our jet. Claiming that we are responsible for anything that happens anywhere in the world is a very dangerous assertion."

Four accused of being Militants win reprieve

Four Young Socialists, threatened with expulsion by a local Labour party for supporting Militant Tendency, won a reprieve in the High Court in London yesterday.

After a 75-minute private hearing, Mr Justice Evans granted temporary injunctions to John Hoare, Alison McDonald, Martin Benn and John Waddingham, preventing Mansfield (Notis) constituency Labour party from taking any further steps to expel them.

The constituency party's general management committee was to meet today to rule on expulsion recommendations made by its executive committee.

The constituency party was not present or represented at yesterday's hearing, and the injunctions will remain in force until a full hearing.

Miss McDonald, for the group, said they had brought the proceedings "with reluctance" because they feared they would not get a fair hearing today.

She said: "We had argued all along that there was no constitutional basis for the expulsions. This is a witch-hunt because of our political ideas."

Gandhi tackles exam cheats

Though Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, is not getting quite the adulatory press he was enjoying a few months ago, the one part of his image that has not been impugned is his reputation as "Mr Clean".

No one, politician nor journalist, has so far found the merest tittle of gossip to tie him to any unethical conduct - though you may be sure it is not for want of trying. Mr Gandhi, indeed, appears to have set himself the Herculean task of cleaning up corruption in Indian public life, a task in comparison to which cleaning the Augean stables would appear a little light housework.

His startling speech to the centenary meeting of his Congress(I) Party has set the tone. He said of the leaders of his own party: "Their life-style, their thinking - or lack of it - their self-aggrandizement, their corrupt ways, their linkages with the vested interests in society, and their sanctimonious posturing are wholly incompatible with work among the people."

And he has proved that he meant what he said.

When Mr A.R. Antulay, then Chief Minister of the western state of Maharashtra, was named by a judge as having improperly extracted money from cement contracts for one or two political trust funds, he was compelled to resign and was proceeded against in court, though the case now rests with the Supreme Court. That was during Mrs Indira Gandhi's time, when Mr Gandhi was but his mother's adviser.

But now, one of Mr Antulay's successors has been compelled to resign by Mr Gandhi after being named in the same courtroom. While Mr Antulay collected money, Mr Shivajirao Nilangekar collected degrees for himself and his family.

Last November Mr Nilangekar's daughter, Chandrakala, a poor student, took the obstetrics and gynaecology exam for the fourth time. According to the original marks, of the 16 practical and theoretical papers, she passed four and

marginally failed 12. By recomputing the results the examiner had her marginally failing four theoretical papers and two practical tests. Then he changed the balance of the scores so that the practicals outweighed the theory, and finally so far lowered the standards that an astonishing 72 per cent of the candidates passed including Chandrakala, but excluding another MD candidate who later challenged the whole process and brought it into the open.

Education is one way for the poor or lower middle class Indian to escape the dreadful grinding poverty of their surroundings.

This explains why the standard of cheating or of using undue influence on examinations is so high. In 1981 the son of a senior professor in Bihar secured 96 per cent in the subject of the department of which his father was head. Not much surprising in that perhaps, except that for his entire stay at the university the boy never secured less than 30 per cent in any subject.

At Patna University, also in Bihar, the Chief Minister's daughter also in 1981, obtained a first and a second class honours in economics, but only after the examiners had been changed.

In 1982 a former Kerala minister was accused of fiddling his daughter's examination results - also in the medical exams. In 1984, four MBA students at the Anna Malai University in Tamil Nadu were found to have been awarded degrees because the father of one of them was a senior professor.

Last year people who had already graduated were found impersonating students at the exams in Nagpur.

Mr Nilangekar protests that no one has proved that he brought any influence to bear on the examiner, but a number of other unusual educational events have since come to light. His son, Mr Sharad Patil, for example, was admitted to the general surgery course by a highly favourable interpretation of the rules.

Michael Hamlyn

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales visits the Isles of Scilly and inaugurates the mains electricity supply for the off-islands. St Martin's Island, 11.

Princess Anne attends the premiere of the film *Ishtar* at the Regency Cinema, Leicester Sq Theatre, 7.55.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, visits the Royal Army Veterinary Corps training centre, Melton Mowbray, 12.30; and later opens Age Concern's Gloucester House, Melton Mowbray, 3.

Prince Michael of Kent at-

tends a reception to launch an appeal by the Paviors' Company for the Road Makers exhibition, Amberley Chalk Pit Museum, Cutlers Hall, EC4, 12.

New exhibitions

Paintings from Venice by Sophie Walpole-Wilson; Stephen Barley Gallery, 63 Old Church St. SW3; Tues to Fri 11 to 6, Sat 10 to 5 (ends April 24).

Domestic: The Book; Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, WC2; Mon to Sat 10 to 6 (ends September 30).

Lawrence Preece: new paintings and related drawings; Redfern Gallery, 30 Cork St. W1; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 12.30 (ends May 7).

The Wally Close photographs by Hugh Carroll and John Gilmore; (ends April 26).

The Architecture of Adolf Loos; Third Eye Centre, 350 Saatchiehall St. Glasgow; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (ends April 27).

Ceramic sculptures by Sien Lykke Madsen (ends April 14); Lincolns by Hans Olafur Krull (ends May 3); MacRobert Arts Centre Gallery, Stirling University; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5.

Last chance to see

Works by Geoffrey Bawa; Royal Institute of British Architects, Portland Place, W1, 9 to 5.30.

Ilford Photographic Awards: National Centre of Photography, The Octagon, Milson St. Bath, 10 to 5.30.

British Trees: photographs by Alan Fairhurst and Eric Scofield; Towneley Hall Art Gallery, Burnley, 10 to 5.30.

Music

Concert by the Parke Ensemble; work by Ravel, Debussy and Mozart; St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Sq. WC2, 7.30.

Recital by the Omega Quartet; St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1, 1.10.

Recital: The Delta Sax Quartet; Riverside Studios, Crisp Rd. W6, 8.30.

Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Colston Hall, Bristol, 7.30.

Concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Sq. Nottingham, 7.30.

Talks, lectures, films

Understanding Ossis, by Joyce Kilmer; Natural History Museum, Cromwell Rd. SW7, 3.

Resistance and rebellion in eighteenth century Metz; Women, Jews and the royal courts of law, by Prof. Frances Matrone; University Women's Club, 2 Audley Sq. W1, 6.30.

Aerobic: The Amazing Flying Ring, by Mr Alan Adler; The Royal Aeronautical Society, 4 Hamilton Place, W1, 6.

Francis Bacon by Richard Humphrys, 1: Forty years of modern art 1945-1985, 6.30; Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1.

Myths and Legends: the portrait as creator of myth, by Colin Wiggins; The National Gallery, Trafalgar Sq. WC2, 1.

General: Teenage painting and drawing: murals with Brian Dawn (ages 12 to 16); Poetic puppets (make and play) with Barbara Davis (ages 7 to 11); Sculpture and Clay modelling with Zora Bjelogrić (ages 8 to 12); Pottery with Valerie Taylor (ages 7 to 10); Printing with Ray Gale (ages 9 to 14); Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Rd. NW3, 10 to 3.

Different ways of making finger puppets; The Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Rd. E2, 2.30.

The Scottish Antiques Fair; Roxburgh Hotel, Charlotte Sq. Edinburgh, today and tomorrow 11 to 9, Sat 11 to 5 (ends April 5).

Sunday Times National Student Drama Festival; Taliesin Arts Centre, University College, Singleton Park, Swansea; for details tel: (0792) 296883 (ends April 10).

Butterflies: making butterfly kits; Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Queen St. Exeter, 10 to 12.30.

Books - paperback

The Deputy Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION: No Bed for Bacon, by Caryl Phillips (Hogarth, £3.95); Andrea Lee, by Sandra Phillips (Faber, £2.95); They Don't Dance Much, by James Ross (Harrap, £2.95); The Camerons' Land, by Augustin Gomez-Arcos (GMP, £4.95); A Diary of the Third World War, by Antti-Andreas Gura (Corgi, £2.95).

NON-FICTION: Four Studies in Loyalty, by Christopher Sykes (Century, £5.95); Home Sweet Home, My Canadian Album, by Mordcaid Richter (Triad, £2.95); A United Kingdom, by David Owen (Penguin, £2.95); Tuacana, An Anthology, edited by Laura Raison (Ebury, £8.95); The Inner Eye, by Nicholas Humphrey (Faber, £4.95).

MS

Roads

London and South-east: A308: Road width reduced westbound on Fulham Rd at the junction with Elm Park Gardens and Evelyn Gardens. A10: Southbound carriageway closed; contrailow northbound, Herts.

The Midlands: M1: Contrailow between junctions 15 and 16 (Northampton and Daventry) junction 16 closed. A41: Roadworks on Birmingham to Warwick road at Hutton. A46: Reconstruction work on Colehill bypass, N of the M6/M42 interchange.

Wales and West: M5: Northbound carriageway closed between junctions 15 and 16 (M4 and Thornbury); contrailow on southbound. A470: Roadworks at Coryton: outside lane closed in both directions.

The North: M6: Contrailow between junction 31 and 32 (Preston and M55 interchange). A49: Roadworks at Tarporey. Scotland: A77: Various lane closures between Eastwood Toll and Mallettsburgh. A8: Lane closures westbound between the junctions with A725 at Shawhead and M9 at Baillieston. M90: Lane closures on both carriageways at Perth between junctions 10 and 11.

Information supplied by AA

The pound

	Bank	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells	
Australia \$	2.145	2.175	
Canada \$	25.20	24.90	
Denmark Kr	7.468	7.500	
France F	16.25	16.35	
Germany DM	3.50	3.42	
Italy L	222.00	222.00	
Japan Yen	111.00	111.00	
Netherlands Gld	2.48	2.48	
Norway Kr	11.15	11.10	
Portugal Esc	200.00	200.00	
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64	
Sweden Kr	11.30	11.30	
Switzerland Fr	3.00	2.95	
USA \$	1.522	1.522	
Yugoslavia Dnr	540.00	490.00	

London: The FT index closed up 17.2 at 1419.4

Snow reports

	Depth (cm)	U	Paste	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spr)	°C
FRANCE							
Flaine	110	320	good	varied	fair	sun	11
Morins	70	230	good	crust	good	cloud	8
Val Thorens	175	200	good	varied	good	fine	5
Slush on lower slopes							
SWITZERLAND							
C Montana	90	160	fair	heavy	fair	fine	12
Davos	60	170	good	powder	fair	fine	8
Verbier	85	240	good	varied	fair	fine	8
Powder on north facing slopes							
Wengen	20	90	fair	spring	closed	fine	7
Slush on lower slopes							
Zermatt	185	good	heavy	fair	fine	8	
Slush on lower slopes							

Best wines

In a blind tasting of 34 Rioja Reservas, an expert panel chose two wines as outstanding: Vina Ardanza 1976 Reserva, Sainsbury's Vintage Selection, Sainsbury, £4.25; Vina Lanciano 1978 Reserva, Bodegas Las, Sheraton Wine Company, Sheraton, Malmesbury, Wilt, £4.32.

Close behind and good value for money were: Domecq Domani 1980 Reserva, Sainsbury, Peter Dominie, Victoria Wine, Thresher, Cooper & Roberts, Gage, Oddbins, £3.25 - £3.49; Cero Aosa 1976 Reserva, Bodegas Olarra, Oddbins, Cooper & Roberts, Waitrose, £3.25.

Source: *Delectant*.

Sentencing guide

A new edition of *The Sentence of the Court*, a handbook for courts on the treatment of offenders, has been published by the Home Office. The booklet is intended to provide judges and magistrates with a concise guide to the sentencing powers available to them under the present law, and the basic principles applicable to their use. *The Sentence of the Court* is available at HMSO book shops or can be ordered from HMSO Publications Centre, PO Box 276, London, SW8 5DT; tel: 01-622 3316 (£3.50).

Anniversaries

Births: George Herbert, poet, Montgomery, Castle, Wales, 1593; Washington Irving, writer, New York, 1783; James Hertzog, Prime Minister of South Africa, 1924-39; Wellington, Cape Colony, 1866.

Deaths: John Napier, inventor of logarithms, Merchiston Castle, Edinburgh, 1617; Bartolomeu Munilla, Seville, 1682; Johannes Brahms, Vienna, 1897; Richard D'Oyley Carte, impresario, London, 1901; Kurt Weill, composer, New York, 1950.

Weather forecast

A slack trough of low pressure will be slow moving over SE areas. A ridge of high pressure will develop to the NW of Britain.

6 am to midnight

London, central & coastal N. Midlands, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals and rain or sleet showers, heavy at times; wind NE moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

SE, E, NE England, East Angles: Rather cloudy with rain or sleet showers, heavy at times; wind NE moderate; max temp 10C (46F).

SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District: Sunny intervals and scattered showers; wind N moderate; max temp 11C (52F).

SE, E, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Sunny periods and scattered showers; wind N moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

Bodens, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Mersey Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, occasional showers of rain, sleet or snow; wind N moderate or fresh; max temp 8C (48F).

Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, scattered showers of rain or snow; wind N moderate or fresh; max temp 7C (45F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Sunny intervals and showers, by Saturday the showers will mostly have died out in the W and N.

Sun Rise: 6.32 am Sun Set: 7.37 pm
Moon rise: 4.50 am Moon set: 12.30 pm
New moon: April 9.

Lighting-up time

London 6.07 pm to 6.00 am
Edinburgh 6.24 pm to 6.07 am
Manchester 6.17 pm to 6.05 am
Penzance 6.27 pm to 6.23 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a. cloud; f. fair; m. mist; s. sun.
Belfast 1.44 Glasgow 1.44
Birmingham 1.44 London 1.44
Blackpool 1.44 Jersey 1.44
Bristol 1.44 Manchester 1.44
Cardiff 1.44 Newcastle 1.44
Dundee 1.44 Plymouth 1.44

Portfolio

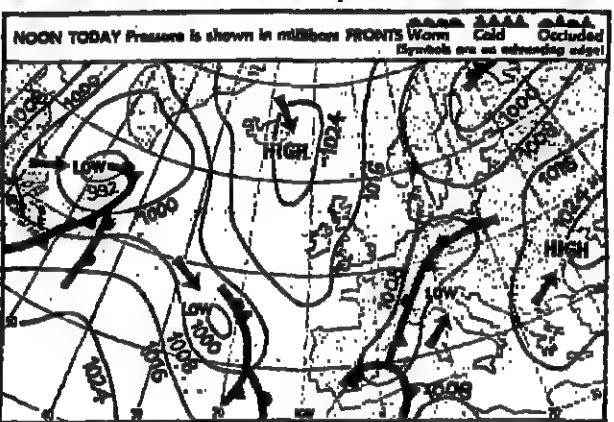
Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Saturday record your daily portfolio.
Add these together to determine your weekly portfolio total.
If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright a share of the prize money stated for that week, and your claim will be accepted unless stated below.

Telephone: The Times Portfolio claims desk, 025-2277 between 10.00 am and 5.30 pm, on the day your overall total is due. The Times Portfolio Office will not claim on any accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.
If you are unable to telephone your card can claim on your behalf. The Times Portfolio card and claim form can be obtained from the office. No responsibility can be accepted for any reason within the stated period.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.
Recent Times Portfolio cards include minor mistakes in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are now invalidated.
If the wording of Stakes 2 and 5 has been misread from earlier cards, please do not be affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

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High Tides

TODAY	AM	PM	HT	MT
London Bridge	0.06	0.06	0.28	0.4
Abbeystead	0.08	0.08	0.28	0.4
Amble	0.10	0.10	0.28	0.4
Barnstaple	0.12	0.12	0.28	0.4
Belfast	0.14	0.14	0.28	0.4
Birkenhead	0.16	0.16	0.28	0.4
Bournemouth	0.18	0.18	0.28	0.4
Brecon	0.20	0.20	0.28	0.4
Bristol	0.22	0.22	0.28	0.4
Brixham	0.24	0.24	0.28	0.4
Burton	0.26	0.26	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.4
Cardigan	0.30	0.30	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.32	0.32	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.34	0.34	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.36	0.36	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.38	0.38	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.40	0.40	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.42	0.42	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.44	0.44	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.46	0.46	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.48	0.48	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.50	0.50	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.52	0.52	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.54	0.54	0.28	0.4
Cardiff	0.56	0.56	0.28	0.4

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1419.4 (+17.2)
FT-SE 100
1702.9 (+18.9)
USM (Datastream)
118.62 (+0.42)

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.4735 (+0.0050)
W German mark
3.4885 (+0.0654)
Trade-weighted
76.5 (+0.7)

Sugar cash resignation

A boardroom clash rumbled at British Sugar yesterday over the payment of a secret £210 million extraordinary dividend to S & W Berisford, the sugar refiner's parent company.

Mr Nigel Robinson, a non-executive director, resigned after a board meeting of British Sugar agreed to pay Berisford the money. The payment is part of a possible sale by Berisford of British Sugar to Ferruzzi, the Italian foods and agricultural products group.

Imps accuses Hanson

The Imperial Group and United Biscuits yesterday complained to the Takeover Panel about a Hanson Trust advertisement which compared Hanson's offer with the Imperial share price and which appeared yesterday.

The advertisement in *The Times* also incorrectly incorporated the wrong wording, saying that each of the offers was being shown. The panel accepted that *The Times* advertisement was an error by the advertising agency, Lowe Howard-Spring, and is taking no action on it.

GRE retreat

Guardian Royal Exchange, the composite insurance company, made pretax profits of £3.5 million in 1985 against £2.2 million. The dividend is raised by 10.6 per cent to 28.75p.

Christies fall

Christies International reported turnover for the year to December 1985 of £1.1 million, a fall of 24 per cent on £1.5 million. Earnings per share were 14.83p and the dividend was unchanged at 5.5p net.

Bunzl payout

Bunzl turnover slipped 8 per cent to £788 million for the year to December 31 but pretax profit rose to £42.7 million, up 54 per cent. The dividend was raised by 2.5p to 10p net.

BHP sues

Broken Hill Proprietary and its directors have issued separate writs concerning the exercise of voting rights for shares the company has bought in Bell Resources and allegations made by Bell.

Sketchley buy

Acceptances for the Sketchley offer for Breakmate have been received for 3.61 million Breakmate shares, representing 98.5 per cent.

No referral

The following proposed mergers will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission: Ladbroke Group and Home Charm Group, Chicago Pacific Corporation and the Hoover Co, and TAC Construction Materials and Eternit Building Products.

Auditors' plea

Auditors are asking the Government to put a limit on negligence damages. The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants is seeking legislation to restrict liability to 10 times the fee.

Pretax losses at BL leap 50% to £110.3 million

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL, the state-controlled motor company whose Land Rover subsidiary remains at the centre of the Government's latest privatisation controversy, yesterday disclosed pretax losses for last year of £110.3 million, a 50 per cent increase on the £73.3 million loss in 1984.

The apparent worsening was caused mainly by the sale of Jaguar in August 1984, which removed that company's profit-making activities from the BL group.

The directors, led by Sir Austin Bide, the chairman, said, however, that the operating loss of £39.5 million represented "a significant reduction" on the comparable 1984 loss of £66.5 million.

Austin Rover, the volume cars business, cut back its losses from £26 million in 1984 to £6 million last year, with its world sales recovering strongly to 479,500, a rise of 14 per cent.

Land Rover Group, which includes the successful Freight Rover operation — maker of the Sherpa van — increased its operating profit to £10 million against £2 million in 1984.

Leyland Group, the truck and bus business, suffered a loss of £52 million against a deficit of £61 million in 1984. BL said Leyland Trucks' much improved financial performance was offset by sharply increased losses at Leyland Bus.

BL's total loss for 1985,

after tax, interest and extraordinary items, was £138 million, compared with a profit of £80.6 million in 1984. The latter figure was distorted, however, by the impact of the £167 million of profit achieved from the sale of Jaguar.

The board said: "Despite a further intensification of competitive conditions in all markets in which BL companies operate, on a comparable basis overall progress was achieved in production, sales and financial performance."

Turnover for the year was £3,415 million of which exports accounted for £764 million, a 28 per cent rise on 1984. Excluding Jaguar's overseas sales, BL's 1984 exports

were worth £598 million. Sales revenue in Britain was £2,353 million.

BL's 1985 preliminary results show that Austin Rover sales rose by 27 per cent in Europe to 105,000 units, the best performance since 1979.

Output was up 23 per cent to 479,000 units, with 99.95 per cent of working time free of disputes, an industrial relations record for BL.

Unipart, the BL parts and components company, made a much reduced profit of £6 million (£14 million).

Land Rover-Leyland, including the bus operation, was hit by declining profitability in international operations and its operating loss was £41 million.

UK reserves show biggest increase for five years

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

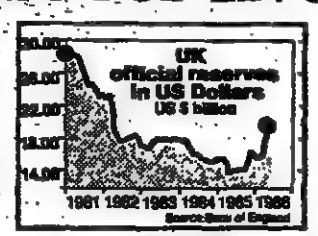
Britain's official gold and foreign currency reserves recorded their biggest rise for more than five years last month, reflecting the pound's strength in the face of weak oil prices.

The reserves rose by an underlying £278 million (£189 million) in March, the biggest monthly increase since January 1981. The actual rise last month was much larger, because of the annual revaluation of the reserves.

The reserves totalled \$18,750 million (£12,686 million) at the end of March, the highest since March 1982. This compared with \$15,810 million at the end of February.

The overall increase in the reserves was \$2,940 million. Of this, \$2,505 million was because of the annual revaluation, and \$435 million because of the monthly increase, before allowing for capital accretions and repayments.

The rise in the reserves, which was much bigger than City economists expected, suggests that the Bank of England took advantage of the



UK official reserves in US dollars

pound's strength, particularly after the March 18 Budget, to boost the reserves.

The pound reached a 2½-year high of \$1.5190 last month, and its average value also rose. The sterling index began the month at 72.5 and ended it 5 per cent higher at 76.3.

The pace of bank lending has slowed markedly, according to the latest quarterly analysis of advances from the Bank of England. Total lending rose 2 per cent, to £2.97 billion, in the three months to mid-February.

After seasonal adjustment, the rise was £3.36 billion, £1.6 billion less than in the previous three months. The slowdown in the pace of lending, together with lower-than-expected public sector borrow-

Bank lending slows

ing, has reduced the rate of increase of broad money.

The figures show why the banks have been adopting a more aggressive approach to mortgage lending. In the November-February period, mortgage lending by the banks increased by £640 million, less than half the rise in the previous two quarters.

Around half the rise in lending in the most recent three-month period was to the financial sector.

Washington feels pressure for oil production pact

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Reagan Administration is reassessing its policies to decide whether it should put pressure on Saudi Arabia and Britain to reach an oil production agreement.

The Administration is under severe political pressure from US oil-producing states, but officials are divided over whether the harmful effects of the oil price collapse are beginning to outweigh the good effects measured by more optimistic world economic growth projections.

The officials decided to publicize their concern on the eve of Vice-President George Bush's visit to Saudi Arabia which begins today.



Vice-President Bush: will press for price stability.

Mr Bush said on Tuesday that although he is not going to Saudi Arabia on a "price-setting mission", he does intend to press for more price stability.

Enterprise to slash exploration

By Carol Fergusson

Enterprise Oil, the former oil production arm of the British Gas Corporation, yesterday announced a 40 per cent cut in its exploration programme this year because of the fall in the price of oil.

In announcing the results of its first full year of operations since privatization in mid-1984, the company forecast for 1986 "a much reduced level of activity and profits from which Enterprise is not immune".

For the year to December 1985, Enterprise said oil pro-

duction in the North Sea was more than 35,000 barrels a day from seven fields, an increase of 9 per cent on last year.

A lower sterling oil price meant that turnover was unchanged at £266 million. Exploration write-offs were £32.8 million, nearly double the 1984 level. Despite higher interest income, pretax profit was down by 20 per cent to £11.1 million.

The company made several acquisitions, of which Saxon Oil is the most important. Saxon's Miller field is one of

the largest undeveloped British offshore oil fields.

These acquisitions have increased the exploration area and six further oil and gas discoveries which could be developed over the next 10 years.

However, if the oil price remains under \$18 a barrel for a long time, the commercial viability of many undeveloped fields will be in doubt.

Nevertheless, Enterprise was confident that its financial resilience would enable it to continue the development of the business in the short term.

Whitehall steels itself for Cornish tinmen's appeal

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Cornwall's tin mines, which face closure after the collapse of the world tin price, are appealing to the Government for financial help to stem heavy losses and are considering legal action against the London Metal Exchange for alleged loss of revenue.

But yesterday Whitehall sources said that the mines stood little chance of obtaining revenue subsidies, although capital assistance for economic projects might be possible.

Mr Kenneth Gilbert, managing director of Gevor, accused the Department of Trade and Industry of using the lack of a formal application by his company for capital assistance as an excuse for refusing to consider short-term production subsidies.

Carnon Consolidated, the subsidiary of Rio Tinto-Zinc which controls the Wheal

Jase and South Crofty mines, is losing more than £1 million a month.

Virtually no tin is being sold in the very depressed market, so production is being stopped. The loss is calculated on the interest cost of carrying the stock and on revenue foregone.

Gevor announced on Tuesday that its monthly losses are running at £350,000 and that it will have to lay-off all its 380 workers at the end of this week. Carnon employs about 1,000 people.

Tin is fetching between £3,000 and £4,000 a tonne, half its price last October. Mr Gilbert said that the company is completing an application for about £16 million of Regional Selective Assistance over five years, along with another £4 million of working capital.

Guinness Peat to buy broker

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Guinness Peat, the investment management and merchant banking group, announced yesterday that it had reached an advanced stage in negotiations to acquire 100 per cent of Henderson Crosthwaite, the stockbroker.

The size of the deal was not disclosed but the move would add a medium-sized broking capacity in both private and institutional business.

The private client business of Henderson Crosthwaite will be fitted in with the personal financial services offered by Guinness Peat. The institutional business will be combined with White & Chessman, the jobber which is wholly owned by Guinness Peat, to create the core of Guinness Peat Securities.

Mr Alastair Morton, the Guinness Peat chief executive, said: "The private client business will be a valuable addition to the retail financial services we are building up within the group. On the securities side we are not aiming to compete with the big US securities houses after big bang but offer a more specialised service in certain stocks."

The acquisition of Henderson Crosthwaite, which handles around £900 million of clients' funds, will be completed during the summer. The talks to purchase the stockbroker started after the failure of Guinness Peat's bid for Britannia Arrow.

Ocean plan to diversify after ship sales

By Clare Doble

Ocean Transport & Trading, the shipping company with growing industrial onshore activities, yesterday announced an increase in profits from £30.1 million to £31.9 million before tax in the year to December 31.

Associates, including Overseas Containers, increased their contribution to £26.8 million from £19.4 million. There was a £5.6 million loss on the sale of ships, against a £5.8 million profit in 1984.

Last year Ocean Transport sold three bulk carriers, thereby withdrawing from bulk shipping, and it has disposed of three surplus liners.

The company now plans to expand the industrial side, having already acquired several small businesses in coal distribution.

The final dividend is 3.95p making 6.5p for the year against 5.5p in 1984. The shares were unchanged at 197p.

It wants £1 million to continue production over the three months Gevor believes the Department of Trade and Industry will take to process the application, which is due to be sent on Friday.

Carnon is seeking rather more and has already held several rounds of discussions with the department.

Ironically, production this year is at a record average of 94 tonnes of tin in concentrate a month, compared with 74 tonnes in 1985.

Cornish sources recognize, however, that they will have difficulty convincing Whitehall that their mines can be economic.

Carnon's average production cost is £7,000 a tonne, and Gevor's is more than £8,000. Continued capital investment could reduce Carnon's costs to nearer £6,000 a tonne.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Sir Gordon hits out over competition

The spate of takeover bids has not left competition policy in disarray. Far from it. At least, that was last night's controversial message from Sir Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading, who took advantage of the Finance Houses' Association annual dinner to argue that competition policy was now clearer on three counts.

Sir Gordon began with a swipe at Alex Fletcher, the former minister who now advises Argyll in its bid for Distillers. When Sir Gordon decided not to refer for Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation the second Guinness bid for Distillers, after the proposal to divest some of the Distillers whisky brands, Mr Fletcher said that a wedge was being driven through the Government's competition policy. Sir Gordon said last night: "He speaks with the authority of ministerial experience, but I think he has allowed his judgment to be clouded by his current attachment as a consultant to Argyll."

Sir Gordon recalled the Tebbitt dictum that the primary ground for merger referral is concern over reduction in market competition. But primary does not mean exclusive, he pointed out. Hence, he said, the Elders' bid for Allied-Lyons was referred because of concern at the high leverage. He looks to the commission's report, due in the summer, to provide helpful guidance on the issue to everybody, including

Sir Gordon himself — whichever way the report goes.

It is clear, said Sir Gordon, that when only one of two rival bids demands investigation it will be referred and not the other, even though that limits the choice for the target company's shareholders. Well, that is at least fair warning.

Sir Gordon maintained that his referrals of the original United Biscuits' bid for Imperial and Guinness's first Distillers approach were entirely consistent with the Tebbitt dictum. It was equally clear, he said, that a referred bidder should be able to revise proposals in order to eliminate the competition problem.

In those two instances the bidders satisfied the commission that the original plans had been abandoned and the references were set aside. Sir Gordon said: "In both cases a binding agreement was reached to dispose of parts of the business to be acquired and to ensure that the merger would not give rise to very high market shares. This seems to me to vindicate competition policy, not to undermine it."

Sir Gordon added: "I think it is quite wrong to suggest that recent events have somehow left existing policy and procedures in a state of chaos." But he allowed that the Government review of competition and mergers policy, due to be announced shortly, should thoroughly examine both existing policy and procedures.

No flotation in sight at 3i

Plans to float Investors In Industry on the stock market have been shelved indefinitely after several meetings of the venture capital group's eight main shareholders — a decision revealed in the prospectus for a £100 million 3i loan issue.

The document stresses that no decision has yet been taken on either a listing or on the disposal by any of the 3i shareholders including the Bank of England and the main clearing banks, of their holdings. However, the shareholders have "agreed in principle that in the interests of preserving 3i Group's special role and character, overall control should be retained for the foreseeable future within the present shareholding group."

Reading between the lines, that means there will be no listing this year or next and that it is highly improbable there will be any change in the shareholding structure.

The idea of flotation was initiated by Midland when it was strapped for cash and casting around for disposals. Its 18 per cent shareholding in 3i, the world's largest single source of venture capital, was an obvious target.

Today Midland's need is not so urgent, and with no one to drive the proposal through, it was perhaps

inevitable that talks about a listing should have got bogged down.

The last published accounts showed that risk capital investments financed out of borrowings had grown to £20.4 million. Accounts for the year to the end of last month will show that this figure has almost doubled and with the continuing growth in the activities of 3i Ventures and the trend towards ever larger and more ambitious management buyouts — 3i is responsible for about half Britain's management buyouts — there is bound to be considerable growth again this year.

Though 3i is still nowhere near its borrowing limits, the upshot is that at some stage soon either 3i's present shareholders are going to have to provide new capital or they are going to have to make it possible for others to do so.

On this latter count they have done themselves few favours by failing to agree on whether the long-term nature of 3i's business would be better reflected if its accounts were prepared on the basis on an investment company. Such a status would carry certain tax advantages as well as allowing 3i to revalue on an annual basis its considerable portfolio of unquoted investments.

AMEC The worldwide construction group

	Year ended 31 December 1985	Year ended 31 December 1984
Turnover	£751.0	£686.7
Profit before tax	£25.5	£27.1
Profit after tax	£16.0	£19.5
Earnings per share	24.8p	29.6p
Dividends per share	11.0p	11.0p

The final dividend of 7p will be paid on 1 July 1986

The Chairman, Mr J W H Morgan F Eng, reports:

"Main core businesses performed satisfactorily... areas of unacceptable performance dealt with... healthy cash position maintained... management strengthened... now set fair to resume steady progress and improvement."

AMEC - Areas of Operation: Building, Civil engineering, Mechanical engineering, Mining, Mechanical and electrical services, Project and construction management, Offshore engineering, Manufacturing, Quality assurance, Design, Property development.

AMEC p.l.c., Sandway House, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 2TA
Telephone: (0906) 883883. Telex: 666708.

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

SPY®		CLAL: Procter & Gamble Inc.	
High/Low	% chg.	High/Low	% chg.
10.30	15.7% up	71.00	7.1% up
10.20	15.7% up	70.00	7.1% up
10.10	15.7% up	69.00	7.1% up
10.00	15.7% up	68.00	7.1% up
9.90	15.7% up	67.00	7.1% up
9.80	15.7% up	66.00	7.1% up
9.70	15.7% up	65.00	7.1% up
9.60	15.7% up	64.00	7.1% up
9.50	15.7% up	63.00	7.1% up
9.40	15.7% up	62.00	7.1% up
9.30	15.7% up	61.00	7.1% up
9.20	15.7% up	60.00	7.1% up
9.10	15.7% up	59.00	7.1% up
9.00	15.7% up	58.00	7.1% up
8.90	15.7% up	57.00	7.1% up
8.80	15.7% up	56.00	7.1% up
8.70	15.7% up	55.00	7.1% up
8.60	15.7% up	54.00	7.1% up
8.50	15.7% up	53.00	7.1% up
8.40	15.7% up	52.00	7.1% up
8.30	15.7% up	51.00	7.1% up
8.20	15.7% up	50.00	7.1% up
8.10	15.7% up	49.00	7.1% up
8.00	15.7% up	48.00	7.1% up
7.90	15.7% up	47.00	7.1% up
7.80	15.7% up	46.00	7.1% up
7.70	15.7% up	45.00	7.1% up
7.60	15.7% up	44.00	7.1% up
7.50	15.7% up	43.00	7.1% up
7.40	15.7% up	42.00	7.1% up
7.30	15.7% up	41.00	7.1% up
7.20	15.7% up	40.00	7.1% up
7.10	15.7% up	39.00	7.1% up
7.00	15.7% up	38.00	7.1% up
6.90	15.7% up	37.00	7.1% up
6.80	15.7% up	36.00	7.1% up
6.70	15.7% up	35.00	7.1% up
6.60	15.7% up	34.00	7.1% up
6.50	15.7% up	33.00	7.1% up
6.40	15.7% up	32.00	7.1% up
6.30	15.7% up	31.00	7.1% up
6.20	15.7% up	30.00	7.1% up
6.10	15.7% up	29.00	7.1% up
6.00	15.7% up	28.00	7.1% up
5.90	15.7% up	27.00	7.1% up
5.80	15.7% up	26.00	7.1% up
5.70	15.7% up	25.00	7.1% up
5.60	15.7% up	24.00	7.1% up
5.50	15.7% up	23.00	7.1% up
5.40	15.7% up	22.00	7.1% up
5.30	15.7% up	21.00	7.1% up
5.20	15.7% up	20.00	7.1% up
5.10	15.7% up	19.00	7.1% up
5.00	15.7% up	18.00	7.1% up
4.90	15.7% up	17.00	7.1% up
4.80	15.7% up	16.00	7.1% up
4.70	15.7% up	15.00	7.1% up
4.60	15.7% up	14.00	7.1% up
4.50	15.7% up	13.00	7.1% up
4.40	15.7% up	12.00	7.1% up
4.30	15.7% up	11.00	7.1% up
4.20	15.7% up	10.00	7.1% up
4.10	15.7% up	9.00	7.1% up
4.00	15.7% up	8.00	7.1% up
3.90	15.7% up	7.00	7.1% up
3.80	15.7% up	6.00	7.1% up
3.70	15.7% up	5.00	7.1% up
3.60	15.7% up	4.00	7.1% up
3.50	15.7% up	3.00	7.1% up
3.40	15.7% up	2.00	7.1% up
3.30	15.7% up	1.00	7.1% up
3.20	15.7% up	0.00	7.1% up
3.10	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
3.00	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
2.90	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
2.80	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
2.70	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
2.60	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
2.50	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
2.40	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
2.30	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
2.20	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
2.10	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
2.00	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
1.90	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
1.80	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
1.70	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
1.60	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
1.50	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
1.40	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
1.30	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
1.20	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
1.10	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
1.00	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
0.90	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
0.80	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
0.70	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
0.60	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
0.50	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
0.40	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
0.30	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
0.20	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
0.10	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up
0.00	15.7% up	-0.00	7.1% up

CLAL: Procter & Gamble Inc.	
High/Low	% chg.
Apr 95	70.00-75.00
Jul 96	71.00-71.00
Oct 98	71.00-81.00
Apr 97	71.00-81.00
Jan 99	75.00-80.00
Oct 97	75.00
Oct 97	75.00
Jan 95	75.00
Vol 211 lots	

TANNER REPORT	
High/Low	% chg.
Apr 95	70.00-75.00
Jul 96	71.00-71.00
Oct 98	71.00-81.00
Apr 97	71.00-81.00
Jan 99	75.00-80.00
Oct 97	75.00
Oct 97	75.00
Jan 95	75.00
Vol 72 lots	
Open interest 65	
Long market commentary:	
Tanner indic.	
20.0 down 20.0	
20.0 down 20.0	
70.0 down 1.0	

TRUSTS - - -

ENT TRUSTS - - -

[illegible]

	Ytd	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	153
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TEMPUS

Profits slump at GRE but outlook brightens

Guardian Royal Exchange's shares, in an apparently perverse reaction to the news of the slump in 1985 pretax profits to a paltry £3.5 million from £32.2 million in 1984, gained 24p to 875p yesterday. Only a month ago, City analysts had been forecasting taxable profits of £30 million to £38 million.

The stock market, however, drew comfort from the fact that GRE has completed the most extensive spring clean in its history, which should pave the way for future advance.

British reserves have been strengthened by £19 million to cope with asbestos and other long tail claims, some of which relate to 30-year-old policies. A special reserve for discontinued professional indemnity business cost £40.6 million and a below-the-line charge of £55 million was added for potential claims from continuing indemnity business. GRE stopped writing indemnity business early last year, but some of its contracts last until early 1988.

Claims against accountants in North America produced the worst of the damage. Even rate rises of 1,000 per cent would not have tempted GRE to keep writing indemnity business.

With no further special reserves anticipated in 1986, the outlook is relatively encouraging. GRE, as one of Britain's largest private motor insurers, admits it has lost some market share after rate rises of 26 per cent since December 1984, but the claims frequency appears to be levelling out.

British household insurance is also thought to be adequately rated now and early indications are that March sales have not been as bad as feared. On a worldwide basis, Australia, Canada and West Germany are all showing encouraging signs after worsening losses in 1985.

Expectations of taxable profits this year are being marked up to more than £100 million. The shares still have a long way to go to recover from their underperformance against the other companies over the past year, but a 10.6 per cent dividend increase, giving an above-average yield of 4.6 per cent, should help the recovery on its way.

Christies Int

Christies International, the fine art auctioneer, signalled at the half-year stage that the 1985 result would not be as

Isro's new chief is used to change

By Lawrence Lever

Change is no stranger to Mr Jonathan Agnew, the newly appointed chief executive of the International Securities Regulatory Organization (Isro).

"I like change, that is a fair criticism of me," he says. It is not that his career is littered with dozens of different jobs; just that having made a success of his job he has tended to move on to other things.

He did however have a false start of sorts. After leaving Cambridge University he spent a year working for The Economist, before deciding that journalism was not for him and he went to the World Bank where he became a staff assistant in the projects department, evaluating proposed leading deals.

In 1967 Mr Agnew moved to Hill Samuel's corporate finance department, ending up as a director for the last two years he was there. He left in 1973 for Morgan Stanley where he was a managing director from 1977 to 1982.

Four years ago he struck out on his own as a consultant advising institutions on likely developments following the abolition of fixed commissions.

So how will he approach the prospect of becoming an employee again, albeit a highly paid one, as the job of Isro chief executive was advertised with a benchmark salary of £70,000.

Mr Agnew perceives his role as "representing the position of the international securities industry to the authorities and persuading the industry to fit into the proposed regulatory framework."

"There will need to be changes in the way that business is done, but it is vital that these do not impair the growth of the international securities business," he says.

"After all this business had grown up in an unregulated area and without any major scandals."

The areas that Isro, and therefore Mr Agnew, are most likely to be concerned with are the Eurobond market, the international equities business which now takes place largely off the Stock Exchange, through block trading between the major players.

In addition, there is Isro's relationship with the Stock Exchange. "Relations with the Stock Exchange are now very friendly," Mr Agnew says.

But they have not always been so and it will take all his negotiating skills if the relationship between the two bodies is to evolve into a harmonious and permanent one.

Buoyant shares break record

Initial uncertainty did not last long on stock markets, and by the end of the day prices had broken through to new records. The FT 30-share index closed up 17.2 at 1419.4 and the FT-SE 100 was 18.9 higher at 1702.9.

The overnight slide on Wall Street prompted the cautious opening, but a firm pound, and an encouraging outlook for inflation as oil prices tumble, soon brought investors back in force.

Equities in the stores, building, food and electrical sectors were in favour. Among leaders meeting strong support were Vickers, 20p up at 513p on compensation hopes, and Courtlands 14p higher at 313p in response to investment buying.

In contrast, gilts were out of favour in the wake of yesterday's decline in the US bond market. Falls stretched to a pound in places.

Oils staged a strong rally after early weakness. The movement of futures prices back over \$10 a barrel provided sufficient impetus for majors such as Shell - up 12p to 768p - to reverse initial losses.

Some good trading results spurred demand for many secondary issues, notably Associated British Ports up 48p at 609p in response to bumper results. Earnings up 23 per cent lifted Blockleys 15p at 930p, while trebled profits gave a 20p fillip to Executex at 113p.

Among builders, acquisition news put 58p on Williams Holdings at 671p. Cookson followed the market trend 17p higher at 540p.

The clearance of the Ladbroke bid hoisted Home Charm 12p at 372p, while recent comment enabled Style to climb 18p at 271p.

Banks recovered from US debt worries, although National Westminster still showed a 10p fall at 915p. Insurances helped by some satisfactory trading results made headway. Sun Alliance put on 23p at 711p.

There were many shares catching the gambler's eye. T. Cowie rose 8p at 183p for this reason, while in brewers Vaux was up 15p at 465p. The stake change on Tuesday helped Oxford Instruments to a 15p rise at 493p.

Elsewhere, satisfactory trading news put 6p on AG Stanley at 89p.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

RECENT ISSUES

ABBOTT M V (180p)	228 +3	SAC Int (100p)	139
Ashley (L) (135p)	221 +1	SPP (125p)	156 +1
BPP (160p)	190	Templation (215p)	228
Brookmount (160p)	182	Sigmex (101p)	81
Chart FL (86p)	93	Snowdon & B (97p)	118
Chancery Secs (63p)	77 -1	Spice (80p)	96
Conv 9% A 2000	185 -5	Tech Corp (130p)	204
Cranwick M (95p)	105	Underwoods (180p)	183
Dialene (128p)	185 -5	Wellcome (120p)	229 -1
Ferguson (J) (10p)	31	W York Hosp (90p)	78
Gold Grm Trst (165p)	188	Wickes (140p)	170
Granite Surface (56p)	80		
Inoco (55p)	38 -1		
JS Pathology (180p)	278 +2		
Marine Porter (105p)	133		
Kearfoot (118p)	110 -3		
Macro 4 (105p)	140		
Merivale M (115p)	141 -3		
Norank Sys (90p)	105		
Realty Useful (330p)	336 -2		

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cullens F/P	70
Greycoat N/P	36
Hartwells N/P	34
NMV Comp F/P	£340
Porter chad F/P	104 +1
Safeway UK	156 +3
Wates F/P	83
Westland F/P	83

Fairey sold for £22 million

Williams Holdings, the fast-growing diversified engineering group, is buying the world's leading military bridging company, Fairey Engineering, from Pearson for £22 million.

Excluding the Soviet bloc, Fairey supplies 90 per cent of the world's dry gap military bridging and 10 per cent of wet gap bridging. Its 31-metre medium order bridge can be built by 24 soldiers in one hour and can support a 60-tonne tank. The company also has interests in nuclear and general engineering, including robotics and nuclear waste containers.

A £150 million bid by Williams for McKechnie Brothers in February was blocked when McKechnie shareholders supported their company's bid for Newman Tonks.

Mr Brian McGowan, managing director of Williams, said: "We started on the Fairey deal the day after McKechnie turned us down."

The Western market in military bridging between now and 1989 is estimated at £275 million. In 1985 Fairey made

Hong Kong goes high-tech

From David Bonavia Hong Kong

Trading on Hong Kong's new space age stock exchange made a bullish start yesterday as leading stocks traded lower than before the Easter holiday.

The sluggish launch for the computerized, unified exchange was attributed to caution on the part of brokers, who wanted to see how the high-technology exchange would work in practice.

The territory's four exchanges have been brought into a 24,000-sq-ft hall with 800 computer consoles.

Mr Robert Li, chairman of the new exchange, said the system would present "a better image" to investors from abroad, and would make the local share market "more international."

COMPANY NEWS

DELANEY GROUP: Mr R Delaney, the chairman, said that in the first two months of this year the order book is 21 per cent higher than at same time last year.

TOWN CENTRE SECURITIES: An interim dividend of 0.4p (same) is payable for the six months to December 31, 1985. With figures in £000, gross rental and investment income amounted to 3,334 (2,833), group revenue before interest charges 2,542 (2,091), property dealing profits 268 (nil), pretax profit 1,428 (1,102) and attributable profit 851 (601). Earnings per share were 0.94p (0.66p).

INOCO: No dividend will be paid for the period from April 3 1985 to December 31, 1985. Turnover for the period was £419,777, profit before exceptional items and tax was £38,396. Exceptional items were a foreign exchange loss of £51,094, revaluation of US oil and gas properties £1,184,425. Loss before tax £1,197,123, tax credit £37,511. Loss attributable to shareholders £1,159,612 and loss per share 5.10p.

MOLINS: A final dividend of 5.7p, mkg 7.9p (same) is payable for 1985. With figures in £m, group sales totalled 116.3 (133.5), trading profit 8.3 (5.8), made up of tobacco machinery 6.4 (4.9) and corrugated board machinery 1.9 (0.9). Pretax profit was 8.1 (6.0). Earnings per share were 19.2p (8.2p). Dividend payable on May 29.

CAPITAL & COUNTIES: A planning application is being submitted for a big new shopping complex in Watford town centre. The partners in the £85 million development are Watford Borough Council, the Sun Alliance insurance group and Capital & Counties. The project will be built in two phases and it is hoped to make a start on the site next year.

ARCOLETRIC HOLDINGS: A final dividend of 0.47p, making 0.72p (0.65p) is payable for the year to December 31, 1985. With figures in £000, turnover was 6,247 (5,922) and pretax profit 283 (227). Earnings per share were 3.07p (3.13p). Despite fierce market competition, sales went up by 6.9 per cent with the upward trend continuing into the first quarter of this year.

ASPEN COMMUNICATIONS: A final dividend of 1.8p, making 2.8p for the year is payable for the year to December 31, 1985. With figures in £000, turnover was 8,092 (6,894) and pretax profit 1,160 (634).

UNITED COMPUTER AND TECHNOLOGY HOLDINGS/PARK PLACE: By Tuesday of this week, 389 UCAT holdings accepted the offer in respect of 2,119,701 UCAT shares (approx 84.7 per cent). Another 127 accepted the cash alternative in respect of 25,392 UCAT shares (approx 1.0 per cent). Some 254 UCAT warrant holders accepted in respect of 34,944 UCAT warrants, (approx 14.1 per cent) while 159 UCAT warrant holders indicated their wish to exercise their rights to subscribe for one UCAT share in respect of each of the 89,345 warrants they hold (approx 35.9 per cent) and then accept the offer. The offer became unconditional in all respects on March 18. The offer and the warrant offer will remain open for acceptances until further notice. The cash alternative has closed.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	12 1/4%
Adem & Company	11 1/4%
BCCI	11 1/4%
Citibank Savings	12 1/4%
Consolidated Ctds	12 1/4%
Continental Trust	11 1/4%
Co-operative Bank	13 1/4%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/4%
Net Westminster	11 1/4%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11 1/4%
TSB	11 1/4%
Citibank NA	11 1/4%

Latest prices:

At last some help for the hard pressed Imperial shareholder. Mindful that share prices can vary daily, we are publishing a bulletin showing the value of each of the offers for your company. In order to be perfectly fair, the values we've quoted are based on the best possible offers. The next closing date of our offer is April 11 at 3 pm.

HANSON BID WORTH:

378.5P

UNITED BISCUITS BID WORTH:

355.7P

HANSON BID BETTER BY:

+22.8P

Figures based on the market prices at 3.30pm on Wednesday.

HANSON TRUST
CONTINUING GROWTH FROM BASIC BUSINESSES.

Sun Life: Onward and upward

Results	1985	1984
Proprietors' share of profits	£m	£m
Sun Life Assurance Society plc	11.3	9.3
Sun Life Pensions Management Ltd	1.7	1.2
Sun Life Unit Assurance Ltd	0.8	0.4
Funding development of Sun Life Trust Management Ltd	(0.4)	-
	13.4	10.9
Proprietors' investment income	1.7	1.7
	15.1	12.6
Expenses	0.2	0.1
Employees' Profit Sharing Scheme	0.6	0.5
Taxation	0.2	0.3
Proprietors' profit for year after tax	14.1	11.7
Balance brought forward	7.4	7.3
	21.5	19.0
Dividends paid	5.5	4.6
declared for payment	8.4	7.0
Balance carried forward	7.6	7.4

Results from Sun Life Assurance Society plc for the year ended 31st December 1985.

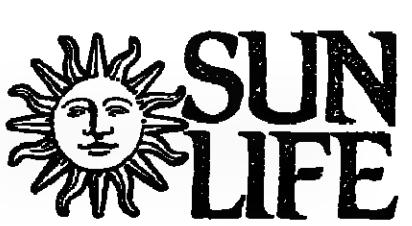
Salient Points:

- Total premium income rose by £18 million to £434 million.
- Group funds now total £3.75 billion.
- The proprietors' share of profits rose by a record £2.5 million to £13.4 million, 23% up on 1984.
- A record £115 million was distributed to policyholders as bonuses.

• The final dividend of 14.40p per share makes an annual total of 23.74p - an increase of 20% on 1984.

For a copy of the 1985 Report and Accounts of one of Britain's most consistently successful life and pensions offices, please contact:

Sun Life Assurance Society plc, on Facsimile, 01-406 7788, or write to: 107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DU



A major force in British Life for over 175 years

"Further encouraging progress."

W.N. Menzies-Wilson, Chairman

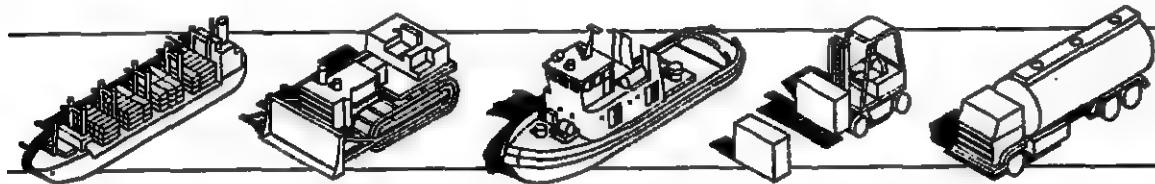
- Steady improvement in Cory
- Excellent year for OCL
- Dividend up 18%

	1985 £m	1984 £m
Turnover	766.9	779.8
Trading profit	18.8	16.2
Profit before tax and ship sales	37.5	24.3
Profit attributable to stockholders	16.4	14.1
Earnings per stock unit	17.5p	16.8p
Dividend per stock unit	6.5p	5.5p

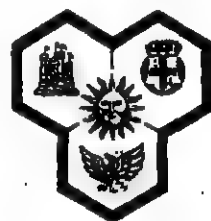
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SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP RESULTS FOR 1985

The group results for 1985, subject to audit, are as follows:-

	1985 £m	1984 £m
Premium Income		
General Insurance	1,778.5	1,606.7
Long-term Insurance	576.6	505.1
	2,355.1	2,111.8
General insurance underwriting loss	(183.4)	(198.7)
Long-term insurance profits	20.9	18.4
Investment and other income	200.2	227.9
GROUP PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	37.7	47.6
Taxation	2.8	4.1
GROUP PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	34.9	43.5
Minority interests	7.2	6.5
GROUP NET PROFIT FOR YEAR	27.7	37.0
Adjustment to exclude net loss incurred by Phoenix prior to acquisition	—	4.0
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	27.7	41.0
DIVIDEND	34.5	30.6
RETAINED PROFITS TRANSFER	(6.8)	10.4
EARNINGS PER SHARE	14.0p	20.8p
DIVIDEND PER SHARE	17.5p	15.5p

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF GENERAL INSURANCE RESULTS

	1985	Underwriting result	1984	Underwriting result
	Premium income	£m	Premium income	£m
United Kingdom & Ireland	817.9	(69.9)	669.3	(83.2)
Europe	199.1	(30.8)	184.5	(11.5)
U.S.A. (note 1)	180.2	(18.0)	272.1	(35.0)
Canada	92.8	(17.8)	105.1	(16.2)
Australia (note 2)	66.5	(16.7)	53.6	(6.7)
Other overseas areas	120.8	(11.7)	141.0	(17.0)
Reinsurance	29.2	(14.8)	36.9	(22.0)
Marine and Aviation (worldwide)	153.0	(3.7)	144.2	(7.1)
	1,659.5	(183.4)	1,606.7	(198.7)
Reinsurance from Chubb Corporation	119.0	—	—	—
	1,778.5	(183.4)	1,606.7	(198.7)

Notes - (1) The U.S.A. figures for 1984 include the Phoenix's Continental pool business which was terminated on 1.1.1985.
(2) The 1985 results for Australia include the business of Phoenix Prudential (formerly an associated company) which became a wholly owned subsidiary with effect from 1.1.1985.

GENERAL INSURANCE UNDERWRITING RESULTS

The premium income for the year included a premium of £110m receivable under an excess of loss reinsurance agreement with Chubb Corporation relating to anticipated future claims in respect of discontinued U.S. medical malpractice business. This reinsurance, with a fixed limit of liability, was a non-recurring facility afforded to Chubb because of the Group's close association. Excluding this reinsurance premium, general business premium income increased by 3.3% in sterling terms. The underlying premium growth, after allowing for currency fluctuations and changes in the business portfolio was 19.2%.

At Home, the household results were badly affected by the severe weather at the beginning of the year and further adverse weather claims in December. Better results were achieved in commercial property classes, reflecting a reduction in the number of large fire losses, but substantial underwriting losses were suffered in both the commercial and private motor accounts.

In Europe, the deterioration was mainly attributable to sharply increased underwriting losses in Holland and underwriting motor experience in Denmark.

In the U.S.A., most commercial lines are beginning to benefit from the improving market conditions but liability results remain unsatisfactory. The underwriting loss does not include the Group's additional claims provisions in respect of its own discontinued medical malpractice business which have been met by a transfer from retained profits.

In Canada, the result suffered from an increase in large property claims and continuing poor experience in the automobile account. The increased underwriting loss in Australia was partly due to weather losses in Brisbane at the beginning of the year and in

The above statement is a summary of the year's results. The full audited Report and Accounts will be passed to shareholders on 28th April 1986 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting.

2 April 1986

SUN ALLIANCE AND LONDON INSURANCE plc

سنة ١٤٠٦ هـ

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Tarmac in £30m pavilion plan

By Judith Huntley

Tarmac Properties, part of Tarmac, the construction company based in the Midlands, has ambitious development plans.

It is taking the brave step of investing £30 million in a 200,000 sq ft office development in Brighton next to the Pavilion built for the Prince Regent in the eighteenth century. But there is nothing eighteenth century about the building planned by Tarmac Properties.

An application goes to the planners this week. Brighton Council would gain an ice rink and a big increase in car parking from the scheme.

Tarmac Properties is hoping for rents of £10.50 a sq ft on the development by the time it is completed in about three years. The company has just let a small amount of space in the town at £8.50 a sq ft.

Tarmac Properties must be hoping for another American Express, whose British head-

quarters is in Brighton, to take its new building or that an owner-occupier in the financial services field appears.

The company is exploring ways of financing the Brighton project with Morgan Grenfell. It may raise seven to 10-year money and then sell equity stakes in the completed and let development. Syndication is definitely in the company's mind.

Its joint venture with London & Edinburgh Trust, the fast growing property company, at Waterside Park in Blackwell, Berkshire, has taken a step nearer with the granting of planning permission for the 300,000 sq ft scheme.

Tarmac Properties, which says its pretax profits equal those of LET, its partner, is aiming for rents of £12 a sq ft at Waterside.

Mr Steve Reeves, head of Tarmac Properties, says that he would have been sceptical about achieving rents at that level a year ago but lettings in

the neighbourhood and growth seen so far have convinced him that £12 a sq ft is obtainable.

Hewlett Packard, the American computer company set a record rent for campus office space at Waterside by paying £10 a sq ft for 105,000 sq ft of space developed by LET on land bought from Tarmac. That was the beginning of the relationship between the two which led to the establishment of the joint company to develop the next 15 acre phase at Blackwell in a £50 million partnership.

Hewlett Packard, meanwhile, has just bought 25 acres of land, only half a mile from Waterside, making it the largest owner-occupier purchase in the area.

Tarmac Properties has another large scheme under its belt at Cardiff where it plans to develop a £30 million retail, housing, leisure and office scheme with the help of a £10 million urban development grant.

Its central London office development next to Charing Cross Station, funded by Scottish Amicable, was taken by British Aerospace at a rent of £22 a sq ft, a figure which could have been higher had the covenant not been so good.

But the company has recently backed away from two potential schemes. It had planned to buy the Technicolour site, close to London's Heathrow Airport and the Wilkinson Sword site at Poyle, Hampshire.

Tarmac Properties' future looks likely to stay within the parent company to which it contributes a mere 2.5 per cent of overall profits but a very visible profile.

Sir Eric Pountney, the chairman of Tarmac, is not willing to have off his property arm despite the speculation of some and desire of others to see it floated as a separate company on the stock market.

Guardian Royal Exchange Group Results for 1985

Subject to audit the results of the Guardian Royal Exchange Group for the year ended 31st December 1985 are as follows:

	1985 £m	1984 £m
Investment Income	193.6	202.7
Less Interest Payable	14.3	16.0
	179.3	186.7
Underwriting Results		
Short-term insurance business	(154.3)	(111.2)
Long-term insurance business	19.1	16.7
	(135.2)	(94.5)
Profit before loss on discontinued international professional indemnity business, taxation and extraordinary item	44.1	92.2
Loss on discontinued international professional indemnity business	(40.6)	—
Profit before taxation and extraordinary item	3.5	92.2
Less		
taxation	15.0	34.9
minority interests	2.3	3.0
	17.3	37.9
(Loss)/profit after taxation and before extraordinary item	(13.8)	54.3
Extraordinary item - contingency claims provision in respect of discontinued international professional indemnity business	(55.0)	—
(Loss)/profit transferred to retained profits	(68.8)	54.3
Earnings per ordinary share (after taxation and before extraordinary item)	(8.7)p	34.5p
Statement of retained profits		
Retained profits 1st January	373.7	345.5
(Loss)/profit for the year	(68.8)	54.3
	304.9	399.8
Ordinary Dividends		
Interim 9.00p per share	14.2	13.4
Proposed Final 19.75p per share	31.4	27.5
Total	45.6	40.9
	259.3	358.9
Contingency reinsurance fund profit	1.6	1
Profits less losses on investments sold less taxation	61.7	14.7
Retained profits 31st December	322.6	373.7

Results by Territories (before taxation)

	1985			1984		
	Net Premiums	Underwriting Result	Investment Income	Net Premiums	Underwriting Result	Investment Income
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Australia	80.3	(9.9)	14.3	123.4	1.2	16.7
Canada	100.0	(16.6)	12.2	107.6	(11.5)	16.0
Germany	197.0	(9.6)	22.8	178.6	(7.0)	21.0
Republic of Ireland	35.7	2.6	5.2	34.9	(1.6)	4.5
South Africa	34.5	(2.0)	4.0	43.1	(2.1)	5.0
U.K.	459.7	(66.9)	70.9	388.0	(45.5)	69.8
U.S.A.	173.6	(20.2)	15.4	166.7	(19.1)	16.5
Miscellaneous	205.9	(31.7)*	34.5	208.3	(25.6)	37.2
	<u>1,286.7</u>	<u>(154.3)</u>	<u>179.3</u>	<u>1,238.6</u>	<u>(111.2)</u>	<u>186.7</u>

The territorial results are stated after reinsurance protection from group companies including protection under the worldwide stop loss arrangements. The 'Miscellaneous' underwriting result includes this reinsurance in respect of the territories shown opposite.

*Excluding loss on discontinued international professional indemnity business.

Exchange Rates								
	1985	1984		1985	1984		1985	1984
Australia	2.12	1.40	Germany	3.54	3.65	South Africa	3.73	2.30
Canada	2.02	1.53	Rep. of Ireland	1.16	1.17	U.S.A.	1.45	1.18

The Chairman's Statement last year referred to the adverse effect of professional negligence claims, particularly those written in London on an international basis involving leading accountancy firms. This class of business has been discontinued but large numbers of claims have continued to be notified on earlier years of account and estimates on many existing claims have been substantially increased. This has been shown as a separate item of £40.6m under loss on discontinued business. In some cases the contract provides however that we must continue to offer cover to existing clients for up to three years during the run-off period. To provide for any losses which may occur under this future commitment we have thought it prudent to make provision of a further £55m this year as an extraordinary item. The long tail nature of this business makes it difficult to estimate with accuracy, particularly in predicting the future of American legal practice, but we believe we have established a realistic estimate on the basis of current information. Tax relief will be dealt with as losses emerge and accordingly no deferred tax benefit has been assumed; the amount of tax relief on the contingency claims provision is estimated to be approximately £19m.

The short-term business underwriting results for the year were impacted severely by claims in the first half of 1985 from natural disasters in Australasia, a cyclone affecting Canada and the U.S.A. and heavier than usual weather related claims in the U.K., Germany and France. The short-term business underwriting results for the second half of 1985 however have shown a significant improvement over the underwriting results for the first six months of the year and in part reflect the corrective action which has been taken.

The underlying investment income growth was 74%. The profits from our long-term business have made a useful contribution to the results.

The effect of exchange rate movements has been to decrease net premiums by £165.7m, investment income by £21.3m and the short-term underwriting loss by £28.0m.

During the year, and in connection with the reclassification of our short-term business, home foreign business reported previously within our U.K. results is now reported as part of the Miscellaneous result. Comparative figures for 1984 have been adjusted accordingly.

Dividend

The financial strength of the Company has permitted the progressive dividend policy to be maintained and accordingly the Directors recommend the payment of a final dividend which, with the interim dividend paid in January 1986, will constitute an increase of 10.6% compared with the dividend paid to shareholders in respect of the year 1984.

If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 28th May 1986 a payment at the rate of 19.75p per share (gross equivalent 27.82p) in respect of the final dividend will be made on 2nd July 1986 to holders of Ordinary shares whose names appear on the register at 3p.m. on 30th May 1986 making, with the interim payment in January last, a total of 28.75p (1984: 26.0p) per share (gross equivalent 40.67p; 1984: 37.14p).

The audited Annual Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 1st May 1986 and delivered subsequently to the Registrar of Companies.

Guardian Royal Exchange plc
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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Industrial buildings show recovery signs

● Voids, or non-income producing industrial property, in institutional portfolios have fallen to 2 per cent by March this year, the first fall recorded by Hillier Parker, the chartered surveyor, since its records began in 1982.

The firm's latest survey of £1 billion of industrial property shows that not only has non-income producing property dropped from 3.1 per cent of portfolios in 1984, but that the void rate in factories is now twice that in warehouses.

The findings bear out the belief that the industrial property market is improving slightly. But the great divide between north and south remains. Voids are twice as high in the north as the south despite reductions in both areas over last year's level.

The lowest void rates occurred in buildings under 3,000 sq ft or over 20,000 sq ft with middle-sized premises suffering the most. Hillier Parker says that 25 per cent of the institutions it surveyed had no small properties even though these have the lowest voids. 10-year-old buildings had fewer voids than modern ones.

If the void rate is defined as unoccupied property, it rises to 5.2 per cent of the

value of institutional portfolios. And the rate rises to 8 per cent when measured as a proportion of overall floorspace.

In contrast to the cries for higher quality space, Mr Ian Fleming, industrial partner of Hillier Parker, comments: "Industry continues to be cost conscious, preferring slightly older but cheaper units and accepting the inconvenience of higher maintenance costs, poor car parking and access."

● Nippon Telegraph & Telephone is paying £83,000 a year for 2,400 sq ft of space in Waters City of London Properties and Phoenix Assurance's City Tower scheme at Basinghall Street in the Square Mile.

The Japanese company has taken a 10-year lease on the offices. Baker Harris Saunders was the letting agent with Knight Frank & Rutley acting for Nippon.

● The developers of the Houndsditch Warehouse in the City of London are likely to win approval from the corporation's planners for a scheme to build 230,000 sq ft of offices there. But the City is insisting that only 200,000 sq ft should be allowed above ground, and that a minimum of 11,626 sq ft

of retailing goes back on the site.

There is a 92-ft height restriction above ground, excluding the proposed atrium. Outline consent for the scheme could be given today, leaving the detailed design to be worked out.

● Capital & Counties plans to develop a 500,000-sq-ft shopping scheme in the centre of Watford, Hertfordshire. The company has submitted a planning application to Watford Borough Council, which is a partner in the venture with Capital & Counties and the San Alliance Insurance Group.

The new centre involves relocating and expanding the John Lewis Partnership department store, extending Marks and Spencer and British Home Stores, adding a total of 270,000 sq ft of retail space.

The £85 million scheme, which covers a 10-acre site at Watford, will link with the existing Charter Place shopping centre, owned by Watford Council and the General Accident Insurance Company.

Phase one of the new centre will be completed by the end of 1989. Capital & Counties is to project manage the development. The letting agents are Healey & Baker and Molynaux Rose.

Dissenters challenge units

By Judith Huntley

The property industry's attempts to set up a market trading units in individual commercial properties continue apace, but there are still many doubts about the idea.

Heretics in the industry may ask whether there is a need for unitization at all. The developers and chartered surveyors see it as a way of bringing liquidity to a market in which the number of potential purchasers for large and expensive schemes is shrinking.

But a number of developers with City of London office blocks have been ingenious enough to find ways of financing their completed developments without recourse to an untried new market, which needs legal changes before it can come into being. Falling interest rates will help developers in their search for new forms of financing.

Debt issues, for example, become an attractive form of financing as interest rates fall, and the method has already been tried by Rosehaugh at its 1 Finsbury Avenue development on the City fringes.

Selling securities in commercial property debt is another avenue being explored by the financial conglomerates, particularly those from the United States, where there is an established secondary market.

But, accepting that there is a need for unitization, there are still many unanswered ques-



Speyhawk, the property company, has sold the freehold of its joint development at 71/77 Leadenhall Street and Mitre Street in the City of London for £20 million. The offices have been bought by the Swiss Reinsurance Group which will use the building as its London headquarters. Speyhawk developed the scheme with the Johnston Group, a Surrey builder. The property company will project manage the scheme. Swiss Reinsurance is to sell Speyhawk its former City offices at 108 Cannon Street for £11 million for the 22,000 sq ft freehold building. Speyhawk is to redevelop the site which formerly belonged to MEPC. Sinclair Goldsmith and Mellish & Harding are the letting agents for Cannon Street.

Scrimgeour Vickers, the stockbroker, has joined the heretics by asking whether such a market would even be profitable.

If the problems of initial valuation, the trading of units at a discount and the manage-

ment of buildings are resolved, there remains the uncertainty over the volume of trading.

Scrimgeour Vickers doubts whether there will be enough trading to produce profits for the market makers.

Law Report April 3 1986

Appellant need not attend if represented

Regina v Croydon Crown Court, Ex parte Claire

Before Lord Justice Croom-Johnson and Mr Justice Mann [Judgment given March 19]

A defendant who was represented by counsel on his appeal to a crown court against conviction was entitled not to be present at the hearing.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held allowing an application for judicial review by way of certiorari and mandamus to quash the decision of Croydon Crown Court (Judge McHale and Justice) refusing the application by counsel for the defendant that the hearing be heard in the defendant's absence and directing the crown court to hear the defendant's appeal.

The defendant, Errol Clair had been charged and convicted with two other defendants, who were present at the appeal and whose appeals were allowed.

Mr Edward Rees for the defendant; Mr Clive Anderson for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE CROOM-JOHNSON said that it was quite obvious that if the crown court had heard the defendant's appeal, it would have been allowed as were the appeals by the two other defendants.

His Lordship agreed with the submissions of counsel for the defendant that under section 122 of the Magistrates' Court Act 1980, the defendant if represented by counsel, was in fact deemed to be present, and thus an application to the court to hear the appeal in the defendant's absence was unnecessary and was merely made

out of courtesy to the court.

It was quite clear that the defendant could appear by counsel if he wished but there was no strong obligation to be present himself.

His Lordship referred to section 79(3) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 which dealt with the customary practice and procedure with respect to appeals to the crown court and to section 96(6) of the Courts Act 1971 which transferred the appellate jurisdiction of quarter sessions to the crown court and did not affect the customary practice and procedure on appeals, on which the defendant relied, and he concluded that there was no obligation on the defendant to be present if he had good reason.

His Lordship added that there was no question that the withdrawal of the appeal would ordinarily be regarded as being tantamount to an abandonment.

The questions arose whether the abandonment was a nullity and whether what happened was capable in those quite exceptional circumstances of being a nullity.

It did not matter whether it was an abandonment by mistake, it was something which should not be held to prevent the defendant's appeal after the crown court wrongly refused to hear it.

It would be unjust if the defendant were to be left with a conviction against his name which ought not to be there.

Mr Justice Mann agreed.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co., Solicitors, Metropolitan Police.

Industrial injury in removing danger

McGovern v British Steel Corporation
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson [Judgment given March 21]

An accident in which a workman injured his back while attempting to move a displaced toe-board which was obstructing a walkway at his workplace was caused by a breach of regulation 30 of the Construction (Working Places) Regulations (SI 1966 No 94) (which required gangways to be kept free from unnecessary obstructions) and was also a breach of the kind against which the regulation was intended to guard.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill dissenting) upheld the finding of the trial judge that the British Steel Corporation was liable to the plaintiff, John Patrick McGovern, with an order for assessment of damages.

Mr John Deby, QC and Mr Michael J. Taylor for the British Steel Corporation; Mr Graeme Williams, QC and Mr G. Barry Stewart for the plaintiff.

Lord Justice Ralph Gibson delivered a judgment in favour of allowing the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the "but for" test provided a useful starting-point but was an inadequate criterion by which to determine liability.

It was first necessary to identify the relevant breach of statutory duty and the injury which was allegedly caused by it. The next step was to trace the events which formed the links between the breach and the injury.

Those events might involve the intervention of some human action; it would then be necessary to examine whether the intervention was a natural and probable consequence of the breach and, if so, whether the conduct of the intervenor was such as to break the chain of causation.

The onus of proving the causal connection rested on the plaintiff; it was not sufficient to prove that there was a breach of duty which might have caused his injury. The question of causation was to be decided by applying common sense to the particular facts.

It was essential to take account of the fact that the gangway was 20 metres above the ground and that beneath it passed ladles of molten metal. Anyone who found an obstruction on the gangway sufficient to cause someone to trip would be very likely to remove it.

The argument that the intervention by itself broke the chain of causation was unacceptable on the facts.

In the particular circumstances there was a sufficient link between the obstruction and the injury to lead to the conclusion that the injury was caused by the breach.

The regulation was directed to safeguard workmen from the risks of unnecessary obstructions on gangways. By attempting to remove it the plaintiff had not taken himself out of the protection of the regulations. The appeal should be dismissed.

The Master of the Rolls delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Turner Kenneth Brown for Jacksons, Monk & Rowe, Middlesbrough; Goodwens, Middlesbrough.

Erasure of program is criminal act

Cox v Riley

Justices who found that a defendant had deliberately erased a computer program from the plastic circuit card of a computerised saw so as to render the saw inoperable, had properly found the defendant guilty of criminal damage under section 1(1) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Stephen Brown and Mr Justice McCullough) held on March 12, dismissing an appeal by case stated.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHEN BROWN said that counsel for the defendant had submitted

that the programme was not tangible within section 10(1) of the Act and that erasing it did not amount to damage.

The charge in question alleged deliberate damage to the plastic circuit card by the removal of the program.

The defendant's action in erasing the program rendered the saw inoperable and necessitated time, labour and expense in restoring the relevant program on the circuit card.

The argument that the defendant's action did not amount to damage to property within the meaning of the 1971 Act was untenable.

Financial aid provision is retrospective

Chebarov v Chebarov

The provisions of section 12 of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 were retrospective and the court had jurisdiction thereunder to entertain an application for leave to apply for financial relief by a former wife against the former husband notwithstanding that the marriage between the parties had been dissolved overseas before September 16, 1985, the date that the 1984 Act came into force.

Mr Justice Sheldon so held in the Family Division on March 26 when granting leave to the applicant to apply for financial relief from her former husband who had been granted a decree of divorce in Lebanon on April 16, 1985, the validity of which would be recognised in England and Wales.

September sittings

Practice Direction

Exercising his powers under Order 64, rule 2(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, and with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor, Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, directed on March 18 that the Court of Appeal (Civil Division) should sit during the month of September in 1986 and in future years until further notice.

ROLLS said that the sittings were necessary for the purpose of hearing appeals and applications during the vacation.

Details of the number of courts sitting in September would be published each year, normally before Easter, and were as follows for 1986: September 1 - 3, one two-judge court; Sept 8 - 12, one two-judge court and one three-judge court; Sept 15 - 26, three three-judge courts.

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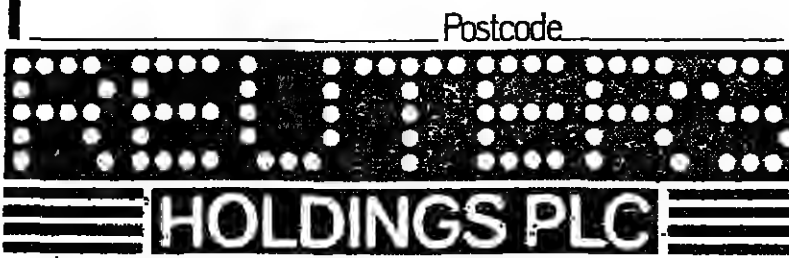
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No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Dividend	1985 P/E
1	Victor Products	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
2	Servicore	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
3	Sandilands	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
4	Sandilands	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
5	Transport Dr	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
6	Scott & Robertson	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
7	Savelys	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
8	Wedgwood	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
9	Walsbams	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
10	Whitcroft	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
11	Amec	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
12	Lowell (VI)	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
13	Cowen	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
14	Tipton Johnson	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
15	Roberts Adair	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
16	Tarmac	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
17	Blue Circle	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
18	Enth	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
19	Bredon & Cloud Hill	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
20	Smart (I)	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
21	Neill (I)	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
22	Peter-Hatfield	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
23	NIS Int	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
24	Magnum	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
25	Low Int	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
26	MY Dan	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
27	Red Int	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
28	Marling	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
29	RFD	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
30	Redfern Glass	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
31	Ferraro	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
32	BICC	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
33	Dehurst 'A'	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
34	Emery Lighting	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
35	GEC	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
36	Micro Focus	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
37	Cambridge Elec	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
38	James Strad	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
39	BSR	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6
40	Thorn EMI	1.10	1.05	1.08	0.05	21.6

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Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £0.000 in Saturday's newspaper.

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BRITISH FUNDS

1985 High Low Stock Price Chgs % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares outpace gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 1. Dealings end April 11. Contango day April 14. Settlement day, April 21. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chgs	%	P/E
34	28	Steel & Alloys	34	0.1	0.3	18.5
35	29	Steel & Alloys	35	0.1	0.3	18.5
36	30	Steel & Alloys	36	0.1	0.3	18.5
37	31	Steel & Alloys	37	0.1	0.3	18.5
38	32	Steel & Alloys	38	0.1	0.3	18.5
39	33	Steel & Alloys	39	0.1	0.3	18.5
40	34	Steel & Alloys	40	0.1	0.3	18.5

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36	30	Steel & Alloys	36	0.1	0.3	18.5
37	31	Steel & Alloys	37	0.1	0.3	18.5
38	32	Steel & Alloys	38	0.1	0.3	18.5
39	33	Steel & Alloys	39	0.1	0.3	18.5
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37	31	Steel & Alloys	37	0.1	0.3	18.5
38	32	Steel & Alloys	38	0.1	0.3	18.5
39	33	Steel & Alloys	39	0.1	0.3	18.5
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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

April 3, 1986

Reading through previous articles on this page it was surprising to find how rarely the word *enterprise* was mentioned. Yet this is the core of Britain's problems today and the key to its solution. Achievement, results and success are a product of mixing skills and motivation with experience, a mixture where the key element in the package is the word *enterprise*, used in its broadest sense. If the enterprise element is right, the other elements will work well together.

There is no shortage of enterprise in Britain today. Unfortunately, much of it is channelled in unconstructive directions — into crime, rioting, city scandals and tax evasion.

Britain not only needs more enterprise. It needs to ensure that this enterprise is used positively in the interests of society as a whole. Fostering enterprise is not just valuable in itself; it gives people more control over their lives; it encourages self-sufficiency and it makes people less slaves to their organizations. It also provides the freedom to make life and work more satisfying.

But perhaps even more important, it is enterprise and entrepreneurial effort that create the new

ideas, new companies and new jobs. It is the main employment growth sector. It is the key to the level of prosperity and job satisfaction.

One reason for so many negative side effects of enterprise in Britain is that our institutions and organizations are so traditional. They spend so much time looking back into the precedents of history and pandering to or appeasing vested interests. Our educational system has been geared to producing bureaucrats and academics, not self-sufficient enterprising individuals. Most enterprise emerges despite the system, not because of it.

That is the magnitude of the challenge. What is the answer? To start with there will be little or no real progress if this whole issue is seen in purely political terms.

Historically, enterprise education has tended to be concerned with small business, but the basic skills are much wider. They include such characteristics as the ability to have ideas, do things differently, take initiatives, be a self-starter — get things done.

So what can be done? Here it is important to recognize that some things are happening. Change is taking place in many areas and this progress needs to be recog-

Enterprise is the vital factor that is so often forgotten in the search for the key to prosperity, says Bruce Lloyd



nized, encouraged and built on.

However, the education system needs further injections of enterprise from top to bottom. It seems relatively easy to have crash programmes for new computer skills, but giving enterprise a higher priority seems much more difficult. Recently mini-enterprise schemes have been started. This kind of project should be second nature to all business schools, enterprise agencies and educational establishments throughout the country. The end product of schooling should be not only the life skills to equip youngsters to look for a job, but the even more important ability to create your own work and earn a living. The

latter is very different. The energy and enterprise is there, if only it can be encouraged and harnessed to good effect.

The same basic issues arise in the polytechnics, universities and other institutes of higher education, again recognizing that some things have changed in the past decade — science parks and new enterprise programmes — but links with industry and commerce are not close enough. The new graduate enterprise programmes are still the exception, rather than the rule.

Things are changing in the business schools and management centres. Many more MBAs are getting involved in running their own companies, or moving into

the venture capital industry. But still the small firm sector is viewed with suspicion by many academics. Venture creation courses are active links with the small business sector but are still exceptions rather than the rule. Perhaps the MBA needs to change its emphasis from administration to enterprise, but awarding MBEs could cause confusion with the other award.

Overall government expenditure on training has increased enormously during the past five years to an annual figure of more than £1 billion. Yet the Youth Training Scheme is still dominated by a "skill" rather than enterprise approach. It is beginning to change, and perhaps the two-year course will help, but it is hard not to feel that attitudes and priorities in this area still leave much to be desired.

Contrast the Manpower Services Commission budget with the few hundred pounds budget of the Education Enterprise Network, who are desperately trying to effect change in teaching attitudes and methods.

The adult-education industry has a vast network of hobby courses — Britain must be the most sophisticated hobby society in the world — and this can be an invaluable base for income earn-

ing, enterprise growth. Yet, very little attention is given to how these activities can be used to help people earn a living.

In this whole area the media, whether television or newspapers, have much to contribute. Again, there has been some change in the past decade. But the Open University and Open Tech are both still dominated by the tradition of academic teaching, rather than an enterprise approach to learning. With a few commendable exceptions, newspapers are generally more preoccupied with bingo than constructive enterprising activities. Television is preoccupied with panel games.

In another area what efforts are being put into injecting constructive enterprise-orientated training programmes into our prisons? The latest results of the prison work programme indicated a shambles, if not a scandal. Yet the prisons probably hold one of the largest concentrations of entrepreneurial talent in the country!

In some parts of the country there are Livewire Twinning programmes, or Jobmate schemes, but these successful ideas should be applied much more widely and much more quickly, if the real

needs of society and the individual are to work together.

The idea of job clubs started recently by the MSC is a commendable initiative, but both job centres and the MSC itself tend to be over-focused on traditional approaches in the way they operate, with emphasis on skills and employment rather than enterprise.

Much has also changed in the City and the financial world in the past few years — the Business Expansion Scheme, the growth of the OTC and the USM, the expansion of the venture capital industry, the explosion in management buyouts, the loan guarantee scheme, the growth of small business centres, workshops and cooperatives, as well as the privatization programme.

Britain did have its first Enterprise Week in May 1985, but it is a pity that this year is Industry Year, not Enterprise Year. If enterprise can be put into industry then there is a chance of solving its other problems. Industry Year needs to have enterprise at its core. If enterprise is not encouraged and developed constructively there will be little cause for optimism.

Bruce Lloyd is chairman of the Business Graduates Association

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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Please write in complete confidence to Roger Stephens, who is advising, or telephone him for a private initial discussion. Ref. 8606.

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CURATORIAL OFFICER GRADE E/F

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Applicants should normally have a degree, preferably with first or second class honours in History or History of Art, an equivalent or higher qualification, but exceptional candidates having extensive practical experience in the field of arms and armour will also be considered. A working knowledge of at least one modern foreign language is essential.

Salary: Grade E £8,432 to £11,265 p.a. Grade F £6,303 to £8,917 p.a.

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Further details and application forms can be obtained from Miss S.J. Wilson, Personnel Section, Royal Armouries, 1411 Tower of London, EC3N 4AB, or telephone: 01-406 6358 Ext 352. Please quote ref. T1CR.

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Prospects exist to advance in Senior Group or Divisional Marketing Management.



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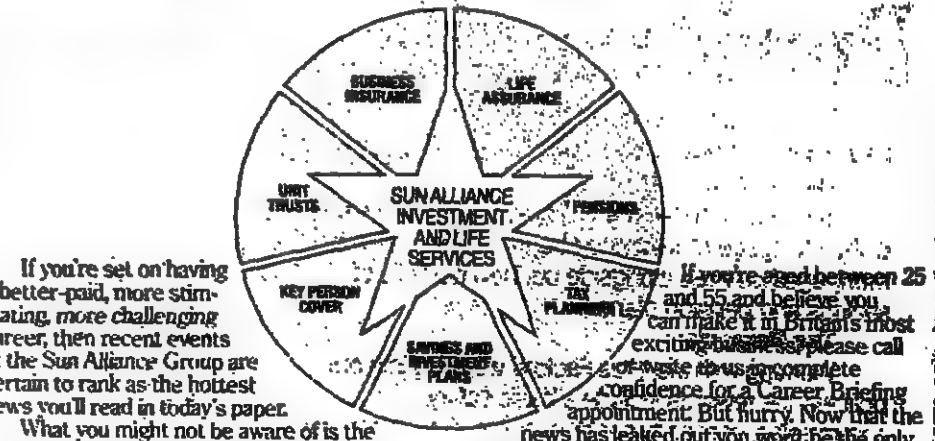
On behalf of our clients, we invite applications for this important position from experienced Administrators, aged 30-45, who have first hand knowledge of, and sympathy with, the interests of leaders in the business community, who comprise the membership of the IOD. The Branch Liaison Officer, as the link between the Institute's headquarters and its 38 branches (UK and overseas), will attend branch meetings and give guidance on a wide range of policy issues and administrative matters, such as finance, arrangements for speakers, committee elections etc. An additional important aspect will be the channeling of the IOD's Policies to its membership and, in turn, conveying their views to the IOD's officials and departments. Important personal attributes will include commercial awareness, the ability to get on with people in an advisory and problem-solving capacity, combined with stamina and self-motivation. Initial salary negotiable £15,000 - £20,000 + car, non-contributory pension with free life assurance, free medical insurance. Applications, in strict confidence, under reference BLO4409/TT, to the Managing Director: CJA.

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Examples of application with CV to: The Duke of Rutland K.T. Chairman, The Living Landscape Trust, Rutland House, Rutland, Northants. NN96 9LP.

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The men and women we are seeking will have worked at senior level in industry, the professions, commerce or in government service. They will have an outgoing personality, enormous enthusiasm and well developed communication skills.

Whilst the work is voluntary, involving about two days a week, all normal expenses will be reimbursed. The real reward will be the enormous personal satisfaction of bringing to fruition a vital part of the charity's objective.

Please write to Ian Adams, Help the Aged, St James' Walk, London EC1R 0BE.

If available a CV would be most helpful. Local interviews will be arranged, at which work options will be fully explained.

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SPORT

The cruel test goes on for sad England

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Port of Spain, Trinidad

There being no way of calling the series off on humanitarian grounds, the fourth Test match between England and West Indies, sponsored by Cable and Wireless, starts here today. The rest day is not until Monday, and the odds must be against the game still being alive by then.

The pitch at the Queen's Park Oval is normally at its best for batting at this time of year, and when Australia lost the first three Tests of their last series against Australia, they then drew the fourth and won the fifth. But I am clutching at straws: for Australia turned the tables only because the pitches at Melbourne and Sydney were entirely unsuited to the West Indian fast bowlers.

After giving his injured thumb a long rest yesterday morning, Gaiting decided reluctantly that it would be wrong for him to play. Even against the medium pace of Gooch and Slack it jarred painfully, and the pitch for today still looked menacingly grassy. In Gaiting's absence, Smith has been included in the England squad, in case it is decided to play an extra batsman at the expense of a bowler. Botham hangs on to his place, but not before there had been some discussion as to whether he should.

The West Indians, for their part, show no signs of tiring of their supremacy, which is one of the reasons why, man for man, they are a good deal fiercer than England. Their determination to stay at the top is exemplified by Richards, who trains as hard now as he ever did. None of his side would dare not follow his lead. Even at age 34, he is their best all-round fielder with the strongest throw of any of them.

By winning again and making it nine victories in a row against England, West Indies

have a record sequence to play for. That is incentive enough, without Richards' ambition to be remembered for having been as successful a captain as Clive Lloyd. There is also fierce competition to fill the fast bowling places in the West Indian side. To be in possession of one of them is a sure way to a good life and a prosperous living, and Holding's will be vacant after next week's final Test match. Patterson knows already that life is tough at the top: in spite of having taken 15 wickets in only 70 overs in the first three Tests, he was left out of the one-day side on Monday.

The crowd that day of nearly 22,000 was being seen in yesterday's *Trinidad Guardian* as having "demon-

strated their loyalty to the heroic West Indian team and their love of the game itself as much as their refusal to be swayed by rabble-rousers and people with a distorted vision of reality."

For the moment, at any rate, the anti-apartheid demonstrators are a long way in arrears. But that was a one day game on Monday, with the one-day series still undecided. Interest in the Tests has been badly affected. I am afraid, by England's wretched form.

A great many West Indians would like now to see England win, or at least put up a better show, and it should be some encouragement that when we were here five years ago, Willey, Gooch and Gower all

made hundreds in the last two Tests after England had lost the first two. What had not hit that side though, despite their evacuation from Guyana and Ken Barrington's death, was the sense of submission that is lurking now. England's fielding practice yesterday, with the catches being hit by Willis, would hardly have done for a village side, and certainly not for a prep school.

If England do fail again, without making a fight of it, some heads will have to roll, one of which could be Botham's. In the series so far he has taken four wickets at 53 runs apiece and averaged 13 with the bat, and he goes into today's match, as he did the third Test, with his lifestyle being questioned, this time by his manager, or agent, or whatever he is, a ludicrous-looking figure whose arrival is imminent.

Drugs are at the bottom of it again, which reminds me of a dig which Gower had at the pitch for today. Picking a leaf of one of several weeds showing in it yesterday, he asked me whether I thought it was being grown for smoking. Morale may be pretty low, but they have not altogether lost their sense of humour.

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The squads

WEST INDIES (from): V A Richards, C G Greenidge, D I Haynes, B Richardson, H A Gomes, Y P Dujon, M D Marshall, R A Harper, M A Holding, J Garner, B P Patterson, C A Walsh.

ENGLAND (from): D I Gower, G A Gooch, R T Robinson, D M Smith, A J Lamb, P Willey, I T Botham, P H Edmonds, J E Emburey, J P Rownton, J G Thomas, R H Ellison.

Tomlins signs

Gloucestershire, who finished third in last season's county championship, have signed the former Middlesex batsman Keith Tomlins, aged 28, on a two-year contract.

Jarvis fit

Paul Jarvis, Yorkshire's most successful bowler last summer, who had to return early from his winter contract in South Africa because of back trouble, reported fully fit when the club's players resumed training for the new season at Headingley.



Uphill struggle: Kim Andersen, of Denmark, on his way to victory in the Paris-Camembert cycling race

AMERICA'S CUP DIARY

Canada's French Kiss of death

Don Green, chairman of the Canadian Tree North syndicate, has called a halt to his group's America's Cup programme after they ran out of funds last week.

Green, who has donated \$3m out of his own pocket, says that the syndicate, one of two challenging from Canada, needs a further \$5m to complete construction of a second boat and return to Perth for the challenge trials, and has given the team 30 days to garner support from corporate sponsors.

The Canadian funding programme was not helped by the lack-lustre performance of the syndicate's first boat, Tree North at the recent 12-metre world championship—a problem heightened later by the resignation of the helmsman, Hans Fogh.

The former Olympic gold medalist, who took over at the helm half-way through the world series, transforming the yacht's performance, left the team after they had been beaten 7-0 by the Mark Pajot-skipped French Kiss in a series of informal match races, complaining of a conflict over strategy between himself and his skipper, Jeff Boyd.

"What the boat lacks is speed. We need to make urgent changes to the hull but instead of making the alterations here in Fremantle, it was decided to ship the boat back to Nova Scotia. That means three valuable months when we should be tuning up against other syndicates and it just won't work," Fogh told me somewhat prophetically a few weeks ago.

Another group facing delays is the American west coast syndicate representing the St Francis Yacht Club headed by Tom Blackaller. Their new yacht, USA, designed by Gary Mull did not measure up as a 12 metre when launched in February and work continues to rectify the design.

Here in Britain, the recent trial of strength competition to find a number of Frank Bryne lookalikes to tell over the powerful coffee grinder which on the two British 12-metres, has led to two new crew members flying out to Perth to join Harold Cudmore's squad.

Sean Campbell, aged 30, from Arnold, Nottinghamshire, is a 6ft 3in 154 stone rower and is joined on the flight next week by Paul Rushton, from Maldenhead, a 23-year old, 6ft 2in rowing and rugby enthusiast, weighing more than 17 stones.

Mark Higgins, the 6ft 9in power lifter and discus thrower from Birmingham who tops the scales at 21½ stones and dwarfed all 26 of the original contestants in both strength and stature, plans to join the team in June in time to work up on the second 12 metre, a 70-ft David Holm design now nearing completion at Hamble.

Cudmore, who is due to take the crew out for a first test sail on Crusader — the first of Britain's two 12-metres — on Saturday said in Fremantle that he was confident that the inclusion of non-sailors in the team would pose no significant problems. This, however, was not the case with a similar experiment carried out recently by the New Zealand syndicate. Their efforts to scour their country for muscle-bound powerhouses came to naught when it was found all of them suffered from seasickness.

Last week's series of short races off Fremantle between the challengers for Australia's defence proved a success for Kevin Parry's Task Force syndicate. Kookaburra II, with Britain's Lawrence Smith acting as guest helmsman, scored 14 wins against 12 gained by Alan Bond's world championship winning Australia III. Australia II, the yacht that won the America's Cup in 1983 won 10 of the races and South Australia gained eight victories.

News this week that work has started on a fourth 12-metre for Dennis Connor's Sail America syndicate set off a spate of announcements from elsewhere in the world. The New Zealanders have set a launch date of June 26 for their third boat. The American Eagle syndicate who launch their first boat on Saturday plan to build another Valentin design, immediately, and the Alan Bond and Kevin Parry Australian syndicates are vying for tank-testing time at the ship model basin in The Netherlands to test the final lines for Australia IV and Kookaburra III.

Barry Pickthall

GOLF: CONCENTRATION THE KEY TO WINNING A PLACE AT THE MASTERS

Faldo looks for encouragement

From Mitchell Platts, Greensboro, North Carolina

The dogwoods are blooming at Forest Oaks, where the Greater Greensboro Open starts today, as they are at Augusta, scene of the US Masters next week, but trying to draw another similarity between the two events is like seeking a comparison between the university match and Henley.

For the Greater Greensboro Open is an excuse for spectators to enjoy a monumental binge whereas the US Masters, of course, unfolds amidst a

lavish tea-party atmosphere with the green-blazed members politely applauding the deeds of men like Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson.

Nicklaus and Watson have long since decided that early practice at Augusta is preferable to competing at Forest Oaks. It is hardly surprising as the Greater Greensboro Open is mostly referred to as the "Beer Can Open" with spectators competing with each other to drink more Budweisers and Michelobes.

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EQUESTRIANISM

Leng and the winding road

By Jenny MacArthur

The run-up to next month's world three-day event championships is, in the words of Henrietta Knight, the chairman of the selectors, "the most difficult one ever" because of Australia's stringent quarantine restrictions.

But Virginia Leng, the reigning European three-day event champion, and three others of the seven bound for Australia have an additional worry. They are all competing at Badminton on a second horse in a fortnight's time, just five days before flying out to Australia. In Mrs Leng's case the second horse is the brilliant Night Cap who finished third at Badminton last year.

Mrs Leng has driven more than 1,000 miles in the 10 days since her world championship horse, Priceless, went into quarantine at Wylye, Wiltshire. Night Cap is still based at her home in Gloucestershire along with four other horses which need daily

schooling, so Mrs Leng is making the one and a quarter hour journey between home and Wylye, where the other riders are based, several times a day.

Night Cap has a final pre-Badminton outing at Brockenhurst this weekend, but Mrs Leng said yesterday that she was concerned that Priceless had taken part in only one event, Aldon, since winning the European championships last September. The length of quarantine for Australia (four weeks in Britain then two more on Torrens Island off Australia) and the cancellation of Crookham, the first horse trials of the season, had severely curtailed her preparations.

The other three riders preparing horses for Badminton — Ian Stark (Glenburnie and Sir Wattle), Lorna Clarke (Glenrool) and Anne-Marie Taylor (Jumey Cricket) — have their horses based near

Wylye so life for them has been a little less frenetic.

Andy Griffiths, a London insurance broker, and the only one of the seven riders with a job outside horses, has been driving the 200 miles to work from Wylye every day to oversee his newly formed company, Petprotect. Griffiths, who like Miss Taylor and Mandy Orchard is competing in his first championships, will ride Hullahaloo in Australia, a nine-year-old who like Miss Orchard's Venture Busby has had just one outing, a novice event last month, since last year's European championships.

Most of the riders, including Clarissa Strachan who is competing in her fifth official championships, are likely to take up the option of competing in an event in Australia which takes place two days after quarantine ends. The horses will be flown out on April 20.

SPORT IN BRIEF

The light brigade

England could wear an unfamiliar sky blue strip in the World Cup finals in Mexico. The red change shirts worn by Bobby Moore and company when they won the Jules Rimet trophy in 1966 are considered too dark for the heat of Mexico.

The blue shirt and shorts have been officially registered as England's second colours because they will keep players cooler in temperatures which are expected to exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit. The kit manufacturers, Umbro, will use the synthetic material they experimented with last summer.

Rule waived

The International Skating Federation has waived the rule barring amateurs and professionals competing together to allow the sport's top stars to help raise funds for Sports Aid, a joint venture between Bob Geldof's "Band Aid" and UNICEF.

Grand entry

Riders from eight countries will be among the 60 entries in the 31st Wincanton Wheels international cycling grand prix at Beaconsfield on Sunday.



Brundle: new car unveiled

Britain's Martin Brundle will have a new car for the remainder of this year's Formula One world championship. Brundle and his French team-mate Philippe Streiff were at yesterday's Silverstone unveiling of the Data General Tyrrell Renault 015, which can reach a speed of 200mph and will be used for the first time in the Spanish Grand Prix at Jerez on April 13.

Heavily backed

Ireland's three-man golf team, led by a slimmer, Christy O'Connor junior, start as clear favourites in the Dunhill Cup qualifying tournament at Nimes, France, today. O'Connor teed off two stones lighter following a diet. "Hungry golfers make the best ones," he quipped.

Don bows out

Adelaide — Sir Donald Bradman, Australia's most famous cricketer, announced yesterday that he was severing his last official ties with the game he has dominated as a player and administrator for the past 59 years. "The Don", aged 77, will retire at the end of June from his positions as trustee of the South Australian Cricket Association and member of its ground and finance committee.

Rugby debate

Two important submissions were being considered last night by the Rugby League management committee. A London-based consortium put forward proposals for the purchase of Fulham which would allow the second division club to continue its fixtures this season. The move for a super league was also being discussed.

England shine

England's Under-18 and Under-16 teams struggled against Wales, then found their touch against Scotland in the home countries' schoolboys' football tournament at Coventry.

Masters final

Gateshead will stage the final of the British Masters basketball tournament next Wednesday.

BADMINTON

Clark is about to face her moment of truth

From Richard Eaton, Uppsala, Sweden

Gillian Clark, aiming to win the European doubles title with a different partner for the third successive year, knows her playing future may hinge on what happens here over the next three days.

Clark, aged 24, partnered by Gillian Gowers, opened the defence of her title with an emphatic 15-2, 15-4 victory over Ireland's Elaine Doyle and Iceland's Kristin Kristiansdottir. But far more important than the results, or perhaps even retaining the title, will be the condition of the champion's knee at the end of the week.

The knee is now elaborately swathed in bandages after Clark's third bad injury in three years. The trouble first occurred in the English Masters tournament in 1983 returned next year to the Uber Cup in Kuala Lumpur and returned again in Taiwan in January.

Clark has now restricted the movement she originally used to perform round-the-head shots — which caused the original accident — and is having to make a number of other adjustments in order to survive. "In the last two months I have also had to alter the way I lunge for the shuttle," she said. "And I have

to do all sorts of work and preparations before I can even begin the training other players take for granted."

She has been encouraged by a promise from Jake Downey, the England manager, that if she is moving satisfactorily she will be included in the Uber Cup squad which leaves for Jakarta on April 16. It will be a great tribute to her if she makes the trip.

Clark was not, however, risked in the side for the European team final against old rivals Denmark last night.

Downey preferred Karen Beckman and Sara Halsall but the other European doubles champion Martin Dew was included. He arrived from Copenhagen on Tuesday night and, partnered by Dipak Talwar, opened in the individual event with a 15-1 15-2 win against the Hungarians. (Sue Kiss and Gabor Petrovits).

Later the pair learned they were on course for a contest with Jesper Helleberg and Steer Fladberg, the former world champions that is likely to have a crucial bearing on whether England can hang on to their title against Denmark in what would be the seventh meeting between the two in eight finals.